Gazetteer of India : Bihar

BHAGALPUR

Bihar District Gazetteers

BHAGALPUR

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PREFACE

The first District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur by J. Byrne, I.C.S. was published in 1911 as one of the series of Bengal District Gazetteers. The old series of District Gazetteers although replete with facts and brilliantly written had a very limited objective. They are now quite out of date.

The State Government in the Revenue Department have undertaken the work of re-writing and publishing the entire series of Bihar Gazetteers. In the last few decades there had been very many basic changes in the district and the country. With the independence of the country the very character of the State Government has changed. The old District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur even, if available, is of little help now.

This re-written District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur is my 9th publication in the new series. The re-written District Gazetteers for Hazaribagh, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Singhbhum, Saran, Champaran, Monghyr and Palamau have already been published.

The work of re-writing of the District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur has its own difficulties. There have been no recent Survey and Settlement Operations. No comprehensive socio-economic survey of the district has been undertaken. Officers in key position have their own problems and even if interested in this type of work, they have very little leisure to give any active collaboration. The District Gazetteers of the border districts in other States have not yet been published.

I was, however, fortunate in receiving help from various sources. I was first posted to Bhagalpur in 1931 followed by a second posting in 1945. I have had frequent occasions to visit Bhagalpur in other official capacity from the State level. I have had the privilege of studying the district during the fateful years of 1946-47 and after.

Regarding old documents and almost unavailable published literature, I am indebted to institutions like National Archives, New Delhi, National Library, Calcutta and the Asiatic Society of Bengal. These institutions have ungrudgingly placed their books at my disposal. The authorities of the National Archives

have gone out of their way to trace old documents to help my study. I have also looked into the old English correspondence in Bhagalpur Collectorate. For the later events, I have obtained help from various Census Reports, manuscripts and data collected from the collaborators and personal investigation. I am particularly indebted to Dr. K.K. Basu, Ph. D., for his collaboration in the compilation of the text on History. Some of the old residents of Bhagalpur like Sri Amulya Krishna Roy, Khitish Chandra Mukherjee, etc. have helped me considerably in various manner. Sri P. C. Singh, Senior Deputy Collector posted at Bhagalpur has supplied all the photos for this Gazetteer. A keen student of Ancient Indian History and Architecture, Sri P. C. Singh took a much larger number of photos and wanted to give them all to me but it was not possible to include all the photos.

The Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, New Delhi have taken up the work of co-ordinating the new District Gazetteers of the States and publishing four volumes of Central Gazetteers for India. In consultation with the States the Ministry has drawn a general plan to be followed by the States for their District Gazetteers as far as possible. The general pattern laid down by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has been generally followed. My thanks are due to the Central Gazetteers Unit for some valuable suggestions.

I am grateful for the guidance and encouragement that I have continued receiving from the Chief Minister Pandit Binodanand Jha, Revenue Minister Sri Mahesh Prasad Sinha, and the Chief Secretary, Sri S. J. Mazumdar, I.C.S. They have always taken a very keen interest in this work.

I have tried to provide an objective book for a wide range of reader —politicians, writers, scholars, administrators, tourists and by no means, the least, the interested man in the street. Personally I have enjoyed writing this book and it will be a privilege if the book is of some help to the readers of the present and coming generation.

PATNA :
1st October, 1962.

P. C. ROY CHAUDHURY

CONTENTS

LIST OF PLATES

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

No authentic report is available as to the origin of the name of Bhagalpur. This matter has been partially dealt with in the text on History. It is rather strange that in spite of three ancient sites within the district, namely, Karangarh, Champanagar and Mandar Hill and also the claimed ancient Vikramshila at Patharghatta, the district should be known as Bhagalpur spelt Bouglipoor or Baugalpur in old English documents. The district was a part of Anga *desha* of the *Mahabharata* days and it is a mystery how the headquarters of Anga *desha* did not come to have the same place-name. The origin of the place-names of the other important places in this district, namely, Colgong, Sultanganj, Bihpur, Banka, Katauria or Amarpur is also not known definitely. The name Colgong is commonly ascribed to be due to one Kohol *Muni* (sage) who lived there. Some say that the place being far too full of quarrels and acrimony (Sanskrit *Kalaha* means quarrel) came to have this name. Sultanganj has evidently derived the name due to Muslim influence, and in spite of the fact that Jahangira village had the famous Shiva temple on a hillock in the Ganga. In Heber's journal (1824—26) the pencil-picture of this hill has the caption of Jahangira. Banka may have derived the name having been located after a sharp curve of the road or because it was the abode of heroes (Hindi *Banka* means a hero or a *bahadur*). The name Katauria smacks of jungle-life and the area was once full of jungles. Bihpur and Amarpur names are obviously due to some local tradition now lost. It is, however, prudent not to probe too deep into the origin of the place-names.

LOCATION

Bhagalpur, the chief and the central district of the division of the same name, is situated between 24°30′ and 25°30′ north latitude and between 86°30′ and 87°30′ east longitude. Its length is about 70 miles from north to south and its width varies from 20 to 44 miles. It extends over 2,123 square miles. This has been arrived at by totalling the figures of the constituent units e.g., police stations. The Surveyor-General of India has reported the area of the district as 2,184 square miles. The difference between the two figures is not large and can be ignored. Its population was 1,429,069 in 1951 census which rose to 1,715,128 in 1961 census.

BOUNDARIES

It is bounded on the north by the Saharsa* district, on the east, north of the Ganga, by the district of Purnea, on the south-east, south of the Ganga, by the Santhal Parganas, and on the west by the district of Monghyr. The administrative headquarters are at Bhagalpur town, situated on the Ganga, which crosses the district from west to east and divides it into two uneven parts, the smaller portion of north Bhagalpur comprising the three police stations, viz., Naugachhia, Bihpur and Gopalpur of the Sadar Subdivision and the lower portion of south Bhagalpur comprising the rest of the Sadar Subdivision and Banka Subdivision. The area of the north Bhagalpur comes to about 306 square miles or only approximately one-seventh part of the total areas of the district.

FORMATION AND CHANGES IN THE AREAS OF THE DISTRICT**

The district occupied the S. E. corner of the Mughal Province of Bihar, together with a small portion of Bengal. In 1765 A. D., when the East India Company was invested with *Diwani*, Bhagalpur district was a huge tract in the east of Sarkar Mungir, Subah Bihar, lying altogether to the south of the Ganga except the *pargana* of Chhai. The exact boundaries of the district, at this period, towards the south and west were rather indeterminate, as the whole line of the country lying between *parganas* Bhagalpur and Colgong and the hills, was rendered unsettled by the inroads and disturbances of the aboriginal tribes. It was not till 1774 that an officer was especially deputed to ascertain these limits.

The areas of the district underwent numerous changes since the British occupation of the district during the past century The earliest was in 1793, when a few villages from Tirhut (now Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts) were added on the north-western frontier.***

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*Saharsa was created a separate district in 1954 and took out about a half of the former Bhagalpur district.

**Prof. K. K. Basu in his "Old Accounts of Bhagalpur" published in Bihar and Orissa Research Society Journal, Vol. XXI, has amply referred to the report of George Dickinson, dated August 31, 1794, Journal by Capt. W. S. Sherwill who made a geographical and statistical survey of Bhagalpur district, south of the Ganges between the years 1846—1850, the report of J. J. Pemberton (1869), a report of G. Loch, the Collector of Bhagalpur on February 24, 1852 and the report of District Officer, E. F. Lautor on May 10. 1855. Their accounts along with the report of Francis Buchanan's Survey of Bhagalpur (1810-11) could be referred to for more details.

***W. W. Hunter's Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. XIV on Bhagalpur District, 1877, p. 21.

The area of the Bhaglpur district seems to be unwieldy during 1810—12 when Francis Buchanan visited the district, as it was 8,224 square miles.* In 1832, the area of the district was greatly diminished, by the establishment of a separate Magistracy and Deputy Collectorship at Monghyr, where there had been a Joint Magistrate since 1812, subordinate to the Magistrate of Bhagalpur. A great addition, however, soon followed in 1838, when the three extensive *parganas* of Naredigar, Malhanigopal and Nisankpur Kurha were transferred from Tirhut to this district, the Revenue and Sessions Court jurisdiction of Kabkhand and Uttarkhand being, at the same time, removed from Tirhut to Bhagalpur, and their Magisterial and fiscal jurisdiction to Monghyr. This increase, again, was more than counterbalanced by the operation of Act XXXVII of 1855, by which the Santhal Parganas were created into a separate Non-Regulation District, and the Daminikoh *parganas*, Tiliagarhi, Jamuni, Chitauliya, Kankjol, Bahadurpur, Akbarnagar, Inayatnagar, Makrain, Sultanganj, Umbar, Sultanabad, Godda, Umlu-Motiya, Passy, Hendwah, together with *tappus* Muniari, Belpatta and a portion of *parganas* Bhagalpur and Sathiari were detached from Bhagalpur district. In 1864, Bhagalpur still further lost the character of a south Ganga district which it had possessed in the eighteenth century, by the addition of seven hundred square miles of country on the north of the river. *Parganas* Kabkhand and Uttarkhand were entirely transferred from Monghyr, and *parganas* Dhaphar and Nathpur from Purnea. Several petty changes of jurisdiction had since taken place, such as the transfer of *pargana* Kharkpur to Monghyr in 1874, but revenue, magisterial, and sessional jurisdictions became conterminous due to these changes. The area of the district in 1872 was 4,268 square miles** which came to 4,226 in 1911 ***; the difference between the two is not great and can be ignored.

The area of the district remained practically intact since 1911 when the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur was published. A great change occurred in 1954 when about half of the portion of the district was detached for the formation of Saharsa district. Saharsa became a sub-district first in 1944 with an Additional District Magistrate and then a full-fledged district in 1954. Almost whole of the north Bhagalpur except Bihpur, Naugachhia and Gopalpur police stations went over to Saharsa district, which is now a separate district. The sessional jurisdiction of Bhagalpur still remained as the District and Sessions Judge of Bhagalpur has jurisdiction on Saharsa district also.

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*Francis Buchanan's An Account of the District of Bhagalpur (1928), p. 2. But the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) mentions as 8,225 square miles.

**Hunter's Statistical Account of Bengal on Bhagalpur (1877), p. 1.

***District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911), p. 1.

The district is now divided into two subdivisions, viz. Bhagalpur (Sadar) and Banka and 7 revenue thanas, viz. Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Colgong and Bihpur in Sadar Subdivision and Amarpur, Katoria and Banka in Banka Subdivision. For revenue purposes the new revenue thanas are the units. Bhagalpur district before it was bifurcated into Bhagalpur and Saharsa districts consisted of the following 23 *parganas*:—

Colgong, Jahangira, Bhagalpur, Musdi, Lakhanpur, Kherhi, Chhai, Dharampur, Sathiari, Shahroi, Wosila, Chandan Katoria, Darsa Khawra, Hazartaki, Chandwe, Naredigar, Malhani Gopal, Nisanakhpur Korha, Dhaphar, Nathpur, Harawat, Kabkhand, and Uttarkhand.

After Saharsa was separated as a district the following *parganas* remained in Bhagalpur district:—

Colgong, Jahangira, Bhagalpur, Musdi, Lakhanpur, Kherhi, Chhai, Dharampur, Sathiari, Shahroi, Wosila, Chandan Katoria, Darsa Khawra, Hazartaki, and Chandwe.

For police purposes there are police thanas which are not the same as revenue thanas. There are 13 police thanas in Sadar subdivision and 9 police thanas in Banka Subdivision. The police thanas have been described in more details in the text on Law, Order and Justice.

TOPOGRAPHY

The district of Bhagalpur shares in the physical characteristics of most parts of the Bihar State. The river Ganga separates north Bhagalpur from south Bhagalpur and this northern division about one-seventh parts of the district forms an eastward continuation of the great alluvial plain of Tirhut. The surface of the land is plain and the drainage is from west to east. The land in north Bhagalpur is very fertile and Naugachhia is one of the principal centres of trade in grain in the State of Bihar.

The southern division of the district is bounded along its northern face by the river Ganga, and has a generally level surface, except near the southern frontier. The southern division is traversed by several streams, having their sources in the hills of the Santhal Parganas, the most important of which is the Chandan. This river enters the district a broad and impetuous torrent, but as it approaches the low land, it spreads over the country in about fifteen different channels, only three of which ever reach the Ganga. One of these streams retains the name of Chandan, but it is a mere water-course which flowing through a hard soil of nodular limestone, pours its water into the Ganga at Champanagar (Champanala), two miles west of the town Bhagalpur. A broad and well

raised belt of limestone on which the town of Bhagalpur is situated extends along the southern bank of the Ganga, and forms a natural and efficient barrier against the incursion of the river. The river Ganga at Sultanganj forms two currents, one towards north-east and the other towards east. The remarkable formation of limestone, about two miles broad, runs almost continuously beside the river from near Monghyr to Colgong, a distance of about sixty miles which had so long proved a great bulwark against the fury of the river. This area was once densely wooded with mangoes, jacks, fan-leaf palms and date trees but a good deal of it had gone to axe. On leaving the belt of woodland, the country is found to be very low and almost treeless to the south. Fine rice-lands exist south of Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Sabour and Ghogha. South from the line between Sultanganj and Nathnagar the country is subject to inundations from both the Chandan and the Ganga. This lowland remains under water during the rainy season and bears only spring crops. Still further south, the country rises a few feet, and rice is extensively cultivated, wheat, sugarcane, mustard, *arhar* and garden products are also seen, bespeaking the richness of the soil, which is here of a light-greyish colour. Mango-groves, palm trees, acacias, banian and *pipal* trees are found; and whenever a small stream affords facilities, the lands in its immediate vicinity are watered fromit.

In the further south, about 30 miles south of Bhagalpur, the country begins to wear a different aspect, as the land rises by an easy ascent, and the hilly tracts commence. The soil being less deep than to the northward and lying upon rocks of primitive formation the water is nearer the surface and the trees attain a growth exceeding anything that is ever found on the deep alluvial plains of the Ganga. The *mahua* (*Bassia latifolia*) now becomes common, but palms almost cease to be seen. The mango trees are no longer found in planted groves, but are scattered about in small groups; the cotton tree (*Semal*) attains a great size, measuring sixty or seventy feet in circumference, and patches of *dhak* jungle appear. The better kinds of upland yield maize (*makai*) in the rains and wheat and mustard seed in the cold weather ; the poorer are sown with millet (*kurthi*) in the autumn, whilst there is still sufficient moisture in the soil. The sides of the low rolling hills are terraced for the cultivation of rice, which is irrigated by means of a careful system of reservoirs and embankments. The details of irrigation have been given in the chapter on Agriculture and Irrigation. The dense forest is found in Katoria police station in the extreme south of the district bordering Santhal Parganas which has locally earned name "Chotanagpur" of Bhagalpur District.

Lines of drainage.—The general lie or inclination of the district for drainage on the north of the Ganga, is towards the south and east, following the course of the rivers and streams. The actual

work of drainage is, however, for the most part performed by the water-courses, or *dhars*, which connect the main rivers. The tract on the south of the Ganga is drained from south to north by the Chandan and its tributaries, together with a number of minor streams or water-courses, which drain off the superfluous rainfall into the Ganga and put on during the greater part of the year dry sandy channels.

Hill System

Hills of the district are generally low and irregularly scattered but in several cases the ranges run from east and north-east to west and south-west. Prominent hill peaks are the Bitaru Pahar (Suiya Beat) (1,324′), Dharampahar (Kojhi village) (1,186′), Malui Pahar (1,078′), Rangsar (1,308′) and Mandargiri (700′). The hills are scattered mostly in Katoria, Belhar, Amarpur and Colgong police-stations. They mostly belong to the great Vindhiyan mountain system or of Hazaribagh and Rajmahal series. The hills are mostly denuded. Poor species of vegetation grow on the slopes of the hills.

Geology

The old District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) has the following regarding the geological formation of the district:—

> "The north of the district is purely alluvial. The deposits which cover the immense alluvial plain of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra and their tributaries belong in part to an older alluvial formation which is usually composed of massive argillaceous beds of a rather pale, reddish-brown hue, often weathering yellowish. disseminated throughout which occur *kankar* and pisolitic ferruginous concretions. Four principal formation occur in the district. Alluvium, new and old ; the Rajmahal Trappean formation ; the Damuda series, the coal measures of India ; and the Gneissic series. The last-named rocks occupy a considerable area in the south of the district, in the Chandan, Katauria, and Danra Sakhwara *parganas*, where they are continuous with those forming the plateau of Hazaribagh, and thus indeed with the immense stretch of similar rocks along the whole east side of the peninsula down to Mysore. The classification of these highly metamorphic fundamental rocks is everywhere one of the most difficult problems in geology ; and as yet, in India, attention has been chiefly turned to other formations of more immediate interest or importance. Even within the small area under notice, great variety is to be found in these rocks, from the massive

homogeneous granitoid and porphyritic gneiss, weathering into great domes with concentric structure, of which Mandar Hill is a fine example, through many varieties of well foliated gneisses, quartzose, micaceous, and hornblendic, to fine mica schists and trappoid hornblende rock. No normal order of succession or of grouping has as yet been made out in this complex series.

"There are several detached patches of gneiss in Bhagalpur District, isolated in the alluvium as near Panya and Kherhi, and in the Ganges at Colgong and Patharghatta. It is probable that the whole alluvial area is underlaid by these rocks, and at no great depth. The Damuda rocks, to which the Indian coal measures belong, are seen only at one spot within the District. The white clays and sandstone, about 150 feet thick forming Patharghatta Hill, are of this formation. They rest upon gneiss at a few feet above high flood level. Every portion of the group is well exposed on the steel sides of the little hill, without any appearance of a carbonaceous layer. Yet there is a deep shaft on the summit, which is said to have been sunk for coal. The Damuda clay furnishes the great bulk of the material for the pottery works at Patharghatta. A finer kind of kaolin is obtained by crushing and washing a decomposed pegmatitic rock, extracted from shallow pits in the gneiss. On the east side of Patharghatta Hill, the sandstone is overlaid by strong beds of dark green basaltic trap. The slope or dip of the beds being easterly, the whole east end of the ridge, as well as some other small hills in that direction, are formed entirely of this rock The same rock is seen again at the end and south of Pirpainti. These outcrops are all outliers of the great trappean formation, of which the Rajmahal hills are composed. From the fossil plants in the sedimentary beds, interstratified with the eruptive rock it has been ascertained that the formation corresponds with the Lias horizon of the European series. There are no known outcrops of these intertrappean beds in Bhagalpur.

"The alluvial formation occupies the greater part of the District. Much of it is clearly composed of deposits from the present rivers, whether by annual overflow or in consequence of periodical changes in the channel. But there is frequently observed a stiff clay with *kankar*, and often ochre, very unlike the ordinary silt as freshly deposited. This formation is often found, too, in positions where inundation does not now reach. For these reasons it has been distinguished as the old alluvium, though the precise relation between the two formations has not

been satisfactorily determined. Some observers have maintained that the old alluvium is of marine or estuarian origin. As yet, however, no fossils have been discovered to confirm that opinion. It is, therefore, very desirable that any organic remains found in these deposits should be carefully collected and submitted to competent authority."

The working plan of Deoghar Forest Division which covers Bhagalpur has the following:—

"The Gangetic alluvium thins out near Banka and stable shield of granitic and metamorphic rocks of Archaean Age rise gradually upward. Prosecuting above the surface of the shield are ridges of resistant rocks, chiefly quartzite and fine grained rocks of the country are those of an old plain surface."

"The southern parts of Bhagalpur presents a considerable area of granitoid and porphyritic gneisses towards Monghyr and Santhal Parganas, sometimes showing as dome-gneiss as at Mandar Hill and varying to foliated gneisses and schists."*

Regarding minerals the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) mentions as follows :—

"The principal mineral product of Bhagalpur is galena, found in large quantities in *parganas* Sahrui, Chandan, Katauria. and Danra Sukhwara. Much of it is argentiferous. The following report by Dr. Oldham, Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, on some specimens sent to Government by the Collector of Bhagalpur, shows the value of this mineral :—"The ores sent are galena, the sulphide of lead, the most common and widely distributed of the ores of lead, consisting of about 14 per cent of sulphur and 86 per cent of lead. Galena generally contains also an admixture of silver in varying quantities, often to an amount which renders the ore very valuable." Sulphuret of antimony, or *surma*, is also found in the same localities. Copper is met with in the southern hills, as native copper, copper pyrites, a sulphuret of copper and iron, and malachite or green carbonate of copper. Talc, chlorite and jasper are found in the south-western *parganas*. Iron ore is distributed over the whole of the hilly country, very abundantly in places, but the

*The paragraphs quoted from the working plan of Deoghar F. D. is based on data collected from the note of Dr. P. K. Ghose and Haine's Botany of Bihar and Orissa.

difficulties in working it from want of fuel and a good flux prevent its being much used."

The following chart taken from Dunn's Memoirs* shows the mineral occurrences in the district :—

Mineral.	Place.	Location.
Chromite ..	.. Baida Chauk	.. Five miles from Mandar Hill.
Clay (Kaolin) ..	.. Colgong ..	.. ..
	Kasdih ..	.. Near adjacent hill Kasdih (Colgong).
	Letwa Baran	.. Near Banka.
	Patharghatta Hill	.. ..
	Samukhi ..	.. ..
Glass Sand ..	.. Patharghatta Hill	.. ..
Lead and Silver	.. Dudhi Jarna	.. ..
	Phoga ..	.. ..
	Gonora ..	.. ..
	Kajiria ..	.. ..
	Karda ..	.. ..
Occurrences of little or no importance—Fuller's earth.	Patharghatta Hill	.. ..

Regarding the occurrences of minerals it may be further stated that some minerals, viz., China clay, fire clay, mica, garnet, quartz and felspar and galena are found in the district. The details of these minerals are as follows** :—

China clay.—Good quality of China clay deposits have been located at Patharghatta hill in the village Madhorampur in police-station Colgong. This mine is under exploitation since about four decades. At present Messrs. Bengal Potteries, Limited are working this mine.

Several other good deposits of China clay have been found to be located in the villages Samukhia (Banka P.-S.) and Sudletwa (Katoria police-station). But these deposits have not been properly exploited.

Fire clay.—A good quality of fire clay is found in the village Madhorampur (Colgong P.-S.) where as stated before China clay is also found. This deposit was worked in the past.

*Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. LXXVIII by J. A. Dunn (1941), p. 238(I).

**The details have been supplied by the District Mining Officer, Deoghar.

Mica.—Occurrence of mica deposit is reported to be found in the several villages in Katoria police-station. One Fulhara mine is being worked from several years. The Fulhara mica mine once gave very good production of ruby mica.

Garnet.—Garnet is said to be deposited in the villages Bhelwa and Kolharia in Katoria police-station.

Quartz and Felspar.—These minerals are found in association with mica pregmatite. Owing to transport difficulties, they have not been exploited.

Galena—Samples of galena was collected from the village Tonapathar (Katoria P.-S.). The details of deposit and its economic importance have not yet been investigated.

Production figures of mineral in 1960 was for China clay 507 tons (value Rs. 60,035) and mica 2,966 cwt. (value Rs. 22,560).

River System

The river system of the district consists of a reach of the Ganga about sixty miles in length with some Himalayan affluents on the north bank; and on the south a few hill streams, which during the greater part of the year, are sandy water courses but in the rainy season become rivers of considerable size, unnavigable, however, from their rapidity and uncertainty of their floods. The northern rivers which mostly rise in the hills of Nepal flow in Saharsa district which was a few years before part of the old Bhagalpur district. Only a few rivers, viz., the Tiljuga and Ghaghri, etc., with their tributaries flow in the north of the district. The northern rivers have mostly a direction from north to south, with a slight inclination eastwards. The principal of the northern rivers are Tiljuga and Ghaghri. The Chandan alone amongst the southern streams is deserving of notice. The following is a brief account of each of the above rivers, their courses and more remarkably of the drainage channels or *dhars* that fall into them:—

Ganga

"The Ganges first touches Bhagalpur District at Tulsipur, and for about ten miles forms the boundary between *parganas* Jahangira in Bhagalpur and Pharkiya in Monghyr; it then regularly enters the District opposite the village of Sultanganj, where a great mass of granite rises out of its bed. Thence the vast river flows with two great bends, the first northward round the town of Bhagalpur, and the second southward to Colgong, where it meets a low range of hills, by which its course is again diverted in an almost northerly direction for eight miles until

it reaches Patharghat. At that point it receives the united waters of the Kosi and all the northern rivers of the District. The Ganges throughout this part of its course is navigable during the whole year for the largest native boats and for river steamers of very considerable tonnage. The average width of its bed is three miles, but during the hot weather the waterway has a width of only half a mile, the rest being a dazzling plain of white sand. During the rainy season the whole of the deep bed is filled, and a margin of from five to ten miles on the northen bank and from one to two miles on some parts of the southern bank are inundated."*

Chandan

The Chandan is the largest of the hill streams in the south of the district. It rises in the district of Santhal Parganas, just north of Deoghar hills known as Tirhut Parbat and Digharia Pahar. It is fed by numerous minor streams and rainfall in its catchment area which is approximately 500 square miles. Though it vouchsafes in the hills of Santhal Parganas, it floods mostly in the plains of the southern Bhagalpur District. At about thirty-five miles from its embouchure into the Ganga it begins to throw off branches to the eastward and then flows northward ultimately it joins the river Ganga near Ghogha. It thus gradually loses nearly the whole body of water it brings down, the main channel at its junction with the Ganga being reduced to insignificant dimensions.

The upper catchment of the river is hilly and densely wooded. The river debouches into plains near Damdhar where a major tributary meets. The confluence point is about 10 miles above Banka. Another main tributary, the Orninala meets the river Chandan about 2 miles below Banka. The main tributaries of the Chandan are the Panch Katia, Kudar and Orni which join the river below Rosunia where the site for a dam exists across the river Chandan itself. There are good dam sites in the Kudar and Orni at the villages Kulhar ia and Chattarpal respectively. The minor tributaries are the Chathari, Kadi, Dharwa and Daljore. Its catchment area is mostly in Santhal Parganas and partly in Bhagalpur district. It consists mostly of jungles with outcrops of gneisses which are found almost everywhere. Out of the total catchment area of 500 square miles, the hilly catchment along with forests is about 300 square miles and the rest

*District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911), p. 5.

200 square miles forms a plain block of cultivated areas. The river Chandan flows on ridge practically in 30 miles length from near bank. The river branches off into many channels and irrigates its adjoining fields before it falls into the river Ganga by serveral mouths.

The average annual rainfall in the catchment area is about 47 inches. The maximum discharge of the river in 1961 (2nd October) which broke all the previous records and inundated vast areas in the south of the district, was about 1.2 lac cusecs. The average *Hathia* discharge which is the main period of irrigation in 1957 was about 500 cusecs. Being a hill stream, it is liable to sudden and violent inundation, but except when in flood, the channel is a dry bed of gritty sand, pierced throughout with innumerable cuts for irrigation purposes. Since a long time the river has been utilised for irrigation purposes. The former local Zamindars constructed inundation canals big or small for irrigating *kharif*, *rabi* and hot weather crops. The former embankments and bunds are still in existence and are now under the Revenue Department. Some of the inundation canals were provided with head sluice with or without regulator. But in course of time especially when the abolition of zamindari was in view the beds of the inundation channels got silted for want of proper maintenance and attention, have not been revived probably because of the larger schemes of irrigation.

The river as stated before is flowing near Banka practically on a ridge and so has been irrigating very large area by inundation canals taking off from it near villages Ekoria, Kunari and Riga. The former inundation canals though were useful had some technical deficiencies and so could not do assured irrigation. Efforts are now being taken to upgrade some of the former irrigation channels by adding modern contrivances. A planned net work of irrigation channels from the three fromer *danrs*, viz., Kajia, Mahasari and Katoria have been desilted and upgraded recently which have total gross commandable areas of about 70,000 acres on the right bank of the Chandan river. The details of the Chandan reservoir schemes have been given in the chapter on "Agriculture and Irrigation."

Lakes and Marshes

There are no lakes in Bhagalpur District. Considerable tracts of land on the south of the Ganga are inundated every year, but as they dry up and are cultivated in the cold weather, they

cannot be called marshes. Indeed, they form one of the most fertile parts of the district, the cold weather crops being remarkably luxuriant. Bhorang *jheel* near Shivnarayanpur is a fairly large water-logged tract now overgrown with weed which used to be a good spot for game birds.

Flora or Botany

There is no tract of woodland in Bhagalpur District which deserves the name of a forest but there are patches of low jungle interspersed with trees of large size in the Banka Subdivision to the south of the district. Along the southern hills there are two distinct tracts, one stretching from near the Amarpur police-station to the Belhar police-station. The second begins near Chandan, and runs by Jaipur along the whole Santhal Parganas boundary to Lakshmipur. There are three forest ranges, viz., Banka, Baunsi, and Katoria. The Divisional Forest Officer whose headquarters are at Deoghar has jurisdiction over the three forest ranges of the district.

The forest of the Banka Range exists mainly on the hill slopes and their outskirts while the forests of the adjoining Katoria Range lie mostly on gently sloping and undulating plain. The description of plain and hill forests is as follows :—

Plain Forest

Sal is practically pure on plains, except where it has been ousted partly or wholly due to selective overfelling. Lakshmipur forests, which were at one time rich in *sal*, are now carrying poor dry miscellaneous growth with traces of *sal*. This biotic degradation is very conspicuous in varying degrees in the forests of Banka and Katoria ranges. Crop in this division, falls in general within 1 ft. in girth. It has been reduced to sapling size with a few young poles in the over-exploited forests of Sarawan Beat, Suiya Beat, etc. Crop of larger size is found in some of the valley bottoms in interiors of Bhagapathar, felling series in Koiridih Beat, valley area in Kasbawasila, Amahra supporting good growth of *sal* with many stems of 2 ft. and over. Malformation is a common feature in forests existing in populated and easily accessible localities. Some of the forests, e.g., in Lakhna and Murlidih (Madhupur Range) have been reduced to mere bushy stage with a doubtful future before them. unless special treatment is given to them.

Main associates of *sal* are *Terminalis tomentosa*, *Diospyros meloanoxylon*, *Buchanania latifolia*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Sterculia Spp.* etc., occur. Density is generally open. Size of the crop is mostly under 1 ft. in girth. Digharia Pahar appears to have the best wooded slopes with good density at many places and quite frequent occurrence of poles of nearly 2 ft. in girth.

Bamboo

Exploitable bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) occurs on Trikut Pahar, Digharia Pahar, and Bhusi Dhamsila Bamboo Plantation in Kasbawasila block. Congestion and malformation is very common owing to prolonged maltreatment and over-exploitation. Bamboo on Phuljoi Pahar is not being able to grow up beyond switchy stage due to maltreatment.

Khair

Acacia catechu has come upon eroded sites, profusely at places, e. g., Jaipur felling series and adjoining areas. Exploitable size is rare ; only 2,150 trees of 2 ft. and over in girth have been found on enumeration in Katoria Range.

Salai

There is profuse occurrence of *Boswellia serrata* on higher reaches of many hill slopes. Crop in general, is below exploitable size. *Salai* areas too are not easily accessible.

The description of the trees mentioned in the last *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1911) is quoted here—

"The following are the trees most frequently met with in these woods, with some of the products derived from them. The first place must be given to the (1) *sal* or *sakua* (*Shorea robusta*), which is very plentiful in the southern hills and in the neighbourhood of the Nepal frontier.* Few large trees are now to be seen, as they are regularly cut down when the trunks have grown to a height of fifteen feet, to be used to support the roofs of huts. If larger, they are considered unwieldy, as the art of sawing is not practised by the hill-men. The extraction of the resin, which is always followed by the death of the tree, prevents its growing to a large size; but some immense specimens of *sal* are still to be met with in the north of the district. (2) The *abnus* or Indian ebony-tree (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) is a valuable tree, its black heart-wood being largely used by cabinet and ornamental furniture makers. The outer wood is white and soft, and is usually eaten away by insects. The ripe fruit is used in curries and is very astringent in flavour.

"The terminalias are very important trees in Bhagalpur. The (3) *asan* (T. tomentosa) is the principal of them, and it

*This portion is now in Saharsa District.

is on the leaves of this tree that the *tasar* silk-worm (Antheroea paphia) is fed. This valuable insect is reared now only on *asan* trees in the jungle of thana Katauria. With a view, perhaps, to confining the employment to themselves, the rearers have established certain rules of purity which they allege are absolutely necessary, and any infringement of which would totally destroy the success of their operations. Women, who would seem to be best fitted for such work, are entirely excluded, even their wives not being permitted to approach the workers. The low castes are excluded, as their appetites are defiled by the gross impurity of animal food. The workers eat sparingly, once a day, of rice cleaned without boiling (*alwa dhan*) and seasoned only with vegetables. They are not permitted to employ the washerman or the barber. The best cocoons are produced in the forests, whence they are brought by the wandering tribes. From these cocoons three successive broods are obtained, but those reared from the wild cocoons, *dhaba*, are said to be the best; the others, *sarihan*, *jarhan* and *langa*, gradually degenerate. The cocoons for breeding are placed in a large flat basket. When the moths cut their way out, they immediately pair. In from fifteen to twenty hours afterwards, the males die, and are thrown away, and from twenty to twenty-five impregnated females are placed in a cylindrical basket with a narrow mouth, which is covered with leaves. Some leaves are also laid on the bottom of the basket. On the latter leaves, in the course of the day, the females deposit their eggs about 150 to 350 a-piece and then are thorwn away. The eggs are placed in small baskets made of the leaves of the *bel* tree. On the ninth day the eggs are hatched; and the baskets on which they are lying are put upon a tree, over the leaves of which the young insects immediately spread. When they have consumed all the leaves of one tree, they are removed to other trees, and in thirty-six days from the time of their being hatched begin to spin. In fifteen days this operation is completed, and the cocoons are collected. The yield of a cocoon, that is, the tissue wound from it, gives usually about 10.2 grains troy of silk. From 700 to 1,000 cocoons are required for the production of a piece of silk from four to five yards long, and 1¼ yard wide, which sells at from eight to ten rupees. The only operation attended with any trouble is removing the worms from one tree to another. The worms, however, must be watched, as crows and other birds, and hornets are apt to destroy them. Cocoons intended for sale are killed by being

put in boiling water, and then dried in the sun. All the large branches of the *asan* tree are lopped near the stem and young shoots, which produce large succulent leaves, are permitted to grow. The worms are only applied to the same tree once in two years, a whole year's rest being necessary before new branches begin to appear. The old die after being denuded of their leaves. The local supply of cocoons is insufficient to meet the local demand, and cocoons are largely imported from Gaya (Nawada Subdivision), the Sonthal Parganas, Birbhum, and Hazaribagh (Giridih Subdivision). None come from Malda or Murshidabad.

"Some experiments made formerly in Bombay led to the belief that the *tasar* worm might be domesticated, but it seemed doubtful whether this operation would not be more expensive than in the case of the common silk-worm (Bombay × mori). In India there are special difficulties. The plaster or cement exuded by the worm with the filaments is peculiarly tenacious, and cannot be dissolved in water of a lower temperature than 200 Fahr.—a heat that can be kept up in the reeling basins only by the use of steam. The silk is also said to be difficult to dye in the finer shades of colour. Another obstacle is presented by an inherent defect in the filaments themselves. The thread of the *tasar* silk-worm is spun from a double spinnaret, and the filaments do not lie parallel, although close side by side; they are spirals, touching each other only at the exterior points of their curves, and united by the natural gum in, and with which they are exuded. It is on its spiral texture that the well known elasticity of the silk depends. In reeling the silk, it is necessary that the spirals should be worked well into each other, so as to form an even round thread; but it is doubtful whether the filaments can be brought to bear the amount of *croissure* necessary to produce the round thread, and till this can be effected, it will be impossible to provide an article of export which will be acceptable in the European market......If an effective system of reeling be devised, it can only be carried out under skilled supervision in large filatures.....

(4) "The *kawa* (Terminalia Arjuna) is an immense tree, and is held sacred by the hill people. The kernels of the fruit of the (5) *buhira* (T. belerica) are eaten by the natives, and are said to taste like filberts. The tree is a large one yielding a white wood, durable though soft. Its gum, which much resembles gum Arabic, is abundant, and dissolves readily in water. (6) The *badam*

(T. Catappa) is also a timber tree. (7) The *hara* (T. chebula) produces the myrobalams of trade. The tender leaves are punctured by an insect in order to deposit its eggs. The wound enlarges through the extravasation of sap, into a hollow gall, from which good ink is derived. It also yields to the cotton-dyeing caste of Chhipis a most durable yellow. (8) The *kadam* (Nauclea cadamba) is a large tree with thick foliage. (9) The *amaltas* (Cassia fistula) is remarkable for its pendant racemes of bright yellow flowers. (10) The *mahua* is a most useful tree. A description of it is given lower down under the heading "Fruit Trees." (11) *Bijasar*, the *paisar* of the women and the *pitsal* of Bengal, is a large timber tree. It yields a red juice, which hardens in the air into a dark red, very brittle, gummy resin, and has a strong astringent taste. (12) The *sitsal* (Dalbergia latifolia) is not common, and its wood—black, with branching light-coloured veins—is not much used. (13) The *sissu* (D. sissoo) yields to boat-builders their crooked timbers and knees. It and the *sitsal* grow to a large size. (14) The *palas* (Butea frondosa) grows to a large size in Bhagalpur, and yields a ruby-coloured stringent gum There are several species of Acacia. The best known are—(15) A. Arabica (*Babul*); (16) A. farnesiana; (17) A. Sirissa (*sirish*) and (18) A. tomentosa (*sain babal*). (19) Entada pursoetha (*gilla*), which, like the Acacias, was formerly included in the genus Mimosa, is remarkable for the size of its nuts, and the hardness of the interior albumen, which is used by washermen for crimping linen. From (20) Acacia catechu is obtained the native drug called *kath*, which is eaten along with *pan*. It is prepared either from the chopped up heart-wood of the tree, or from the exuded gum yielded by cutting through the bark. All acacias, particularly the two first-mentioned and a related species (21) Albizzia stipulata (*simlaki*), produce gum, having much of the appearance and qualities of gum Arabic. (22) The *salai* (Boswellia thurifera) yields frankincense, and is a large conspicuous tree. The resin, although plentiful, is not much collected. (23) The *piyar* (Buchanania latifolia) is a timber tree the kernels of whose fruit take the place of almonds amongst natives. (24) The *karanji* (Sterculia urens) is remarkable for its white bark and usually leafless condition. (25) The *papra* (Gardenia latifolia) is a small but very ornamental tree. (26) The *kachnar* (Bauhinia variegata) is a tall, elegant tree, little used but for firewood. (27) The *tentul* (Tamarindus Indicus) is not a common tree, but is met with occasionally of large size. (28) The *jar* (Barringtonia acutangula) is the most common tree in

the northern marshes. (29) The *kasmar* or *kasambar* (Schleichera trijuga) is a short, middling-sized tree, the pulpy subacid aril of whose fruit is edible. (30) The *katail* and *ghunt* are common shrubs in the jungle.

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"The fruit trees indigenous to Bhagalpur District are the following:—(1) The mango or *am* (Mangifera Indica) is common all over the District, specially to the north of the Ganges. (2) The *mahua* (Bassia latifolia), the most extensively grown tree in the southern hills. The ripe kernels are eaten like almonds, but are not wholesome. They also yield an oil, four pounds of kernel producing one pound of oil. After being dried in the sun for some days, they are broken in a mortar, and then put in a common oil mill and pressed. In the cold season the oil is thick, but in hot weather it becomes liquid. In most parts it is only used for lighting purposes, being unfit for food on account of its bitter, disagreeable flavour. The poor in the hill tracts, however, use it in cookery, and remove the bitter taste by boiling it in water. The most important produce of the tree is the flower, which expands in the evening and falls the following morning. It is succulent, resembles, a round berry and is full of a thick sweet juice, which would not be disagreeable but for a strong narcotic smell. When collected the flowers are spread on mats, or on a piece of clear ground, and dried in the sun and are then fit for sale. A single tree yields from 10 to 60 lbs. of dried flowers; but it is alleged that were care taken to keep off deer and monkeys, double that quantity might be procured. In the eighteenth century the flowers sold on the tree for from 6 to 3 maunds (4½ to 2¼cwt.) to the rupee (then worth about 2s.); and in the year 1810-11 at Banka, close to the forests, according to Dr. Buchanan Hamilton, only one and a quarter maunds (102 lbs.) was obtained for this money. The present price varies from sixty to eighty pounds for the rupee. In the southern parts of the District, the poor are compelled to derive from this flower a portion of their ordinary nourishment amounting, according to Dr. Buchanan Hamilton's estimate, to five-twelfths of their entire food during five months of the year. *Mahua* flowers are, however, most used for the distillation of country spirit. The process is a very simple one. The flowers, with from an equal to a double quantity of water, are put in large earthen vessels with narrow mouths and left to ferment. This is effected in from four to eight days, according to the heat of the weather. The

whole fermented mass, flowers and water, is then put into a still, and the spirit is drawn slowly off. It is never rectified, and after distillation is always very much diluted with water, and consequently will not keep above fifteen days. If rectified, or even if kept undiluted it could be preserved longer, but in that case customers would not have enough for their money. The still is a large earthen jar, inclining a little to one side, placed over a rude fire-place, confined by two walls of earth. The head of the still is a small earthen pot inverted on the mouth of the larger and smeared with clay. Three tubes of hollow bamboo pass from the head to an equal number of narrow-mouthed, unglazed earthen jars that serve as receptacles, and are placed in a shallow trough containing water.

"(3) The jack fruit or kanthal (Artocarpus integrifolia) is also very common. (4) The plantain or *kela* (Musa sapientum), found everywhere is of an inferior description. (5) The *khajur* or date palm, and the *tal* tree (Borassus flbelliformis), are both common throughout the district, being cultivated for the intoxicating fermented juice, called *tari*, obtained from them. The *khajur* is fit for tapping when ten years old, and lives about twenty years more, during which time a notch is yearly made in the stem just under the new leaves that shoot from its summit, and on opposite sides of the stem in alternate years. The cut is triangular, and at its lower corner a leaf is placed to collect into a pot the juice that exudes. The season commences about the beginning of October, and lasts until the end of April. The cut bleeds for from two to seven days, and is kept open by means of scraping the surface or removing a very thin slice from it. The tree is allowed an equal number of day's rest before a new incision is made. The cuts are made in the afternoon, and the juice exuding during the night is collected in the morning, the yield being about four pounds weight from each tree. Its taste when fresh is sweet, with somewhat the flavour of the water contained in a young cocoanut, but slightly bitter and astringent. Owing to the coolness of the season it does not readily ferment. It is, therefore, collected in large earthen jars, which have been first filled up to a sixteenth of their capacity with old fermented liquor, and exposed to the sun for about three hours when the fermentation is complete. The spirit is sold for about a half penny a quart; and two quarts, or one penny's worth, will produce intoxication. At the season when the supply of date-liquor begins to fail, the *tal* trees commence to

yield a more abundant, stronger, and cheaper drink, which, however, lasts for a much shorter time. About the end of March the *tal* begins to blossom, and throws out numerous flowering stems or spadices. Towards the close of April the ends of these are cut three times a day, a thin slice being removed at each cutting, and jars are suspended under them to catch the juice. New spadices shoot in succession for two months and continue to yield till the end of June. In Bhagalpur only the male flowers are cut, the female ones being left to mature their fruit. The juice ferments without being exposed to the sun and without the addition of old juice, a circumstance due probably to its being collected in the hot weather. During the height of the season it sells for half the price of date spirit, that is, for a farthing a quart; and as it is also nearly twice as strong, it forms one of the cheapest intoxicating liquors in the world. Some trees bleed throughout the rainy season, and their juice is used instead of yeast for making bread. (7) The tamarind, *imli* or *tentul* (Tamarindus Indica), thrives in Bhagalpur, and the fruit is exported. (8) The plums, *bair* and *kul* (Zizyphus jujuba and Z. vulgaris), are very common fruits. Three kinds are enumerated by natives, the *narkuli*, the *patnai* and the *desi*; the last is wild; the first, which is the best, tastes like the English pear, and the *patnai* like half-ripe plums. They all ripen between June and August. (9) The *jam* or *jamun* (Eugenia jambolana), (10) the *banjam* (E. fruiticosa), (11) the *jamrul* (E. alba); and (12) the *gulab jam* (E. jambos), are all eaten, the best tasting like half-ripe plums, and the wild sorts being little better than sloes. They ripen between June and August. (13) The *tipari* or gooseberry of Europeans and *phukta* of natives (Sida Asiatica), is a palatable fruit. (14) The *amra* (Spondias mangifera) is a large plum like fruit, rather wanting in flavour which ripens in the cold weather. (15) The *kamranga* (Averrho a carambola) is found under two varieties—one producing a sweet, the other a sour, fruit: both blossom during the rainy season the fruit ripening during December and January. (16) the custard apple or *a'a* (Anona squamosa). (17) The bull's heart or *non-ata* (Anona reticulata). (18) The *amaltas* or *aura* the *amluki* of Bengal (Emblica officinalis). (19) The guava or *unjir* (Psidium pyriferum). (20) The pumelo or *batavi nebu* (Citrus decumana). (21) The lime or *nebu* (Citrus limomum); there are several varieties of this fruit. (22) The *papita* (Carica payaya), (23) The *gab* (Diospyros embryopteris). (24) The fig or *dumar* (Ficus carica).

(25) The pomegranate or *anar* (Punica granatum). (26) The grape (Vitis vinifera); a green variety has been brought to the district from Lahore; it thrives well, but the fruit is small. (27) The *wampi* (Cookia punctata), a rare fruit—the climate is not favourable to it. (28) The *sapota* (Achras sapota), there are some fine trees with excellent fruit in this district. (29) The *karanda* (Carissa carandas), plentiful in all gardens. (30) The *bijati* (Ehretia serrata), a native of Bhutan, a few are found in the north of the district, fruit good. (31) The *khirni* (Mimusops kanki), with a rather large oval berry, a handsome tree. (32) The *maina* (Vangueria spinosa) with a yellow succulent fruit of the size of a cherry, not much eaten. (33) The *pir alu* (Posoqueria uliginosa), a small thorny tree yielding an edible berry. (34) *Jalpai* (Elaeocarpus serratus), said to resemble olives in taste; used in curries. (35) The *paniyala* (Flacourtia catephracta) a favourite fruit. (36) The *bainchi* (Flacourtia sepidea), little eaten in this district. (37) The *badam* (Amygdalus communis); many trees of this excellent nut are met with in the district, grown from imported seed."* It is reported that except a few most all the fruit trees are in existence.

Fauna or Zoology

Regarding Zoology the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) mentions :--

"The FERAENATURA of Bhagalpur are very numerous when compared with those of most Districts of Bengal and Bihar, a circumstance probably due to the variety of the physical characteristics of the District, and to the fact that it lies between and merges into a number of tracts, distinct in their climate and elevation. The Fauna of Central India is represented by a few members found in the southern hills, which are really outlying ranges of the great Vindhyan system. The animals of Rajmahal, which are specifically distinct add their quota on the east. North of the Ganges most of the mammals found in the central plain of Bengal are to be met with; whilst further north not a few representatives of the Nepal and Himalayan families occur, together with some of those peculiar to the Tarai.

"Monkeys are numerous both north and south of the Ganges. The *hanuman* or *langur* (Presbytis entellus) is found

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District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911), pp. 14 –17.

only on the south of the river. It is strange that it has never availed itself of an opportunity of crossing over, but such is the case, every authority since Buchanan-Hamilton having failed to obtain a specimen to the north of the Ganges. A long-tailed monkey has, however, been occasionally seen in the northern boundary of the District, probably the Himalayan *langur* (Presbytis Schistaceus). The short-tailed monkey or *bandar* (Inuus rhesus) is numerous everywhere, particularly so in the northern forests. The Macacus radiatus, the showman's monkey, has been seen, but such specimens were probably escaped menagerie animals. Bats of many kinds are also met with. The most numerous of the frugivorous tribe is the large fox-bat or *badur* (Pteropus Edwardsi), well known for its inroads on garden fruit. The small fox-bat or *Chamgudri* (Cynopterus marginatus) takes up its residence in every house. The Vampire (Megaderma lyra) is common, particularly in the Supaul subdivision. Several species of leaf bats (Rhinolophus) are found, chiefly in the hills. The long-armed bat (Taphozous longimanus) frequents out houses and ruins everywhere. The wringle lipped bat (Nyctinomus plicatus) is mostly an inhabitant of trees. The yellow bat (Nycticepus luteus) is occasionally found. The Harlequin bat (Nycticepus ornatus) is seen but rarely.

"The insectivora are fairly represented the most common member of the order being the shrew, the *chhachhunda* of natives and musk-rat of Europeans (Sorex caerulesqens). The large mouse-coloured shrew (S. murinus) and the Nepal wood shrew (S. nemorivagus) are also met with. The Himalayan water shrew is occasionally seen near the hill streams in the north of the district. Some hedgehogs are also found, probably Erinacei collares. The Tupaia Elliotti, or Madras tree shrew is found in the southern hills. Two kinds of bears have been recognised. the common black Indian bear (Ursus labiatus) and the *bhal bajra* (U. Indicus). They are both harmless animals except when attacked They live on black ants, termites, beetles, fruits, particularly the seeds of the Cassia fistula, date fruit, and honey, but their favourite food consists of the succulent petals of the *mahua*. Colonel Tickell's account of the power of suction in the bear, as well as of its faculty of propelling wind from its mouth, has been verified in this district. By these means it is enabled to procure its common food of white ants and larvae with ease. On arriving at an ant-hill, the bear scrapes with his forefeet until he reaches the large

combs at the bottom of the galleries He then with violent puffs dissipates the dust and crumbled particles of the nest, and sucks out the inhabitants of the comb by such forcible inhalations as to be heard at 'two hundred yards distance or more'. Large larvae are in this way sucked out from great depths under the soil. These bears are confined to the southern hills, and are becoming scarce The hog-badger or *bhal-sur* is an inhabitant of the Tarai. It has been observed that this animal can walk erect on its hind feet. Some specimens kept in captivity, preferred fruit, rejecting animal food, whilst others seemed to thrive on meat and fish alone. The badger or *bija* (Mellivora Indica) keeps the hilly tracts, and rarely exceeds three feet in total length. The yellow bellied weasel (Mustela Kathiah), a most offensively smelling animal, a native of Nepal, is said to be met with in the Sub-Tarai country. The Indian otter or *uth* (Lutra nair) is sometimes found in muddy streams, and is trained for fishing purposes. Its success in killing and bringing up a fish, often five times its own size, is remarkable. Just outside the district, at Rajmahal, the fishing castes bestow much care on training otters.

"The tiger (Felis tigris) is occasionally found amongst the high grass jungles of the Kosi, and in the hills in the south of the district

"The leopard (felis pardus) is also found chiefly to the south of the Ganges. The large tiger-cat (F. viverrina) is found in thick jungles, and also along the edges of marshes in the north. It has been known to carry off very young children and calves. The leopard cat (F. bengalensis), which is similarly distributed is not such a large or powerful animal. There are sevaral species of wild cats, the *jangli billi* (F. chaus) being the most common. The common hyaena (Hyaena striata) is occasionally seen Civets are numerous in Supaul and are met with in the southern hills, both the larger (Viverra zibetha) and the smaller (V. malaccensis) being represented. Both are kept in confinement by natives for the sake of the drug derived from their subcaudal glands. They live on small birds and animals, egg. snakes, frogs, and insects, and are in their turn eaten by some low castes, such as Musahars. The *Khatas* or common tree-cat (Paradoxurus musanga), also called toddy cat by Europeans from its well-established habit of drinking the juice of the Palmyra palm, is found in the southern *parganas*; and the Tarai tree cat (P.bondar) in the northern forests.

"The Bengal and gold-spotted mongoose (Herpestes malaccensis and H. nepalensis) are abundant, and are prized for their antipathy to snakes. Their alleged immunity from the deadly poison of the cobra is believed to due, more to their activity in escaping the deadly bite than to any peculiar power of resistance to its influence in their constitution.

"The Indian wolf (Canis pallipes) has been seen on both sides of the Ganges, but is now very rare. It is called *hundar* by the natives of Bhagalpur. The jackal, or *gidar* (Canis aureus) is the most plentiful of this genus. Its peculiar cry is heard everywhere marking, according to native opinion, the various watches of the night. The wild dog or *bankuta* (Cuon rutilans) is said to be met with; its existence in Bhagalpur is not beyond doubt, although many dogs of a deep rusty colour and marked vulpine aspect are found wild in the southern hills. The Indian fox (Vulpes bengalensis) or *lomri* is seen everywhere; it is a pretty little animal.

"The whale tribe is represented by the Gangetic porpoise or *suns* (Platanista gangetica). It feeds on small fishes and crustacea and may be seen in large shoals at the mouth of the Ghugri. Its ordinary length is from 6 to 7 feet. Its habitat is muddy water, in which good sight is of little use. Its eyes are small, and the optic nerves rudimentary. The porpoises are shot and speared when they venture into shallow water. The lower classes of fishermen eat their flesh, and their oil is collected as a specific for rheumatism.

"The rodents include squirrels, rats, hares, and porcupines. The striped squirrel (Sciurus palmarum) is the most common of the tribe. Indeed, it is doubtful whether any other squirrel is found. The gerboa rat (Gerbellus Indicus) is said to be sometimes met with. The natives call it *harinmus* or antelope rat. The bandicoot (Mus bandicoota), which derives its name from the Telinga word *pandikoku* or pig rat, is found in towns. The brown rat (M. decumanus) is found in most masonry buildings; and the Nepal rat (M. plurimamis) in the northern plains. The common mouse (M. urbanus) is also plentiful. The Indian porcupine (Hysteric leucura) or *sahi* is becoming scarce, as it is eaten by the lower castes. It is usually obtained by being smoked out of its burrows. When attacked it usually runs a little, and then suddenly charges backwards with its spines erect. The smaller or Bengal poriupine is also found and

hunted down. The common Indian hare (Lepus ruficaudatus) or *khargosh* is very abundantly found; it is eaten by all classes, being considered pure food.

"There are no wild elephants now in Bhagalpur, but down to the end of the eighteenth century they were found in large numbers both north and south of the Ganges. Even in Dr. Buchanan Hamilton's time (1807--13) they did much mischief along the foot of the southern hills, from Rajmahal to Monghyr. He states that they had then, according to native tradition, been only thirty or forty years in this part of the country. Whence they were said to have come, he does not mention. He estimated them in 1810 at one hundred head. He also speaks of a colony of elephants frequenting the marshy parts of the north of the District. The Indian wild boar (Sus indicus) is found in all parts of the District, but chiefly in the part north of the Ganges. It does considerable damage to crops, and it is freely eaten by numerous low castes.

"There are no true stags in the District. but smaller deer are numerous. The *barasingha* or swamp deer (Rucervus Duvancellii) is sometimes met with as high as eleven hands. It was common near the Tarai, but scarce in the southern hills. The *sambhar* stag (Rusa Aristotelis) was similarly distributed; it is a taller and heavier animal than the last. It is hardly ever heard of now Its horns vary very much in size. being sometimes short and very thick, and sometimes long, thin and curved. The spotted deer and hog deer are common both north and south of the Ganges. The former (Axis maculatus) is rarely ten hands high, but is generally more than two hands higher than any specimen of the latter (A. porcinus) that I have seen. The spotted deer are very gregarious, whilst the hog deer is a solitary animal, both sexes being generally found alone. The barking deer (Cervulus aureus) is also met with and supplies better venison than any of the foregoing. Like the mouse deer (Memimna indica) a pretty little animal about ten inches high, it is common in the hilly country to the south. A few four-horned antelopes (Tetraceros quadricornis) stray in from the Tarai. The antelope or *kalsar* (Antilope bejoartica) is common on open plains in the north of the district, and affords much sport. Wild buffaloes (Babalus arni) are now becoming very scarce, but may occasionally be seen in the north of the district. They were common formerly in the Kosi *diara* area.

"The scaly ant-eater (Manis Pentadactyla), the *bagarkit* of some of the natives, and *ban rohit* or forest carp of others, is met with on the banks of streams in the north. A ring, made of its scales and worn on the left hand, is considered a charm against fever. Its flesh is also valued as an aphrodisiac.

"The birds and reptiles of Bhagalpur are almost identical with those of the adjoining district of Monghyr, which have been described in the Gazetteer of that district. The most plentiful small game are wild geese, wild duck, teal, green and rock pigeons, snipe, quail, ortolan, black, painted, grey, and double spurred partridges. There are also the *chandul* or crested lark, the crane in all its varieties, peacocks, parakeets, parrots, hawks, doves of various kinds, the *bulbul*, spoonbill, *sarus*, *teru*, fishing eagle, vulture, kite, crow, jackdaw, owls, large and small, king-fishers, wood-peckers, jays, plovers, curlews, paddy-birds, *koel*, golden oriels, and common sparrows Of reptiles, there are the black and brown cobra, the *dhemna*, the *karait*, the green snake, the *mahil* tree-snake, and several kinds of water snakes, the *gosamp*, blood-sucker, *bishkopra*, scorpion, centipede, and various kinds of lizards, the man-eating crocodile and the fish-eating gavial are both found especially in the north of the district."*

In absence of detailed investigation it is difficult to ascertain the exit and decline of the faunas mentioned in the last *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur*. But it is reported that some specimens, viz., *bija*, *barsinghas*, *sambhar* and *bagar kit*, etc., have either been disappeared or have become rare. The birds and reptiles are still almost identical with those of the adjoining district of Monghyr.

Fish

The principal species of fish are members of the great carp family including the well-known *rohu* (*Labeo rohita*). *Katla* (*catla buchanani*). *Boari* (*Wallago attu*), *tengra* (*Macrones tengra*), *Lilpa* (*Clupea ilisha*), *bachwa*, *Jhinga*, *pothia* and featherbacks, etc. Fish is found in the rivers, streams and low lying fields.

The details of the fisheries have been given in the chapter on "Agriculture and Irrigation".

A Grey mullet of the genus *Mugil artedi* locally known as *Arwari* is found in Bhagalpur, Purnea and Patna. Of these, *M. corsula* has the remarkable habit of swimming with its eyes above the surface of the water and usually moves in small shoals.

**District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1911), pp. 19—24.

On the approach of an individual the fish dives under water with great agility but does not stay there long and comes up to the surface at a short distance from its original position. As the fish progresses, ripples of the displaced water are formed at the sides of the head. During locomotion the pectoral fins are constantly in action, and the pelvics are held out fully stretched. The tail fin moves gently from side to side. The fish moves through the water very gracefully and occasionally ducks its head below the surface presumably to keep the eyes moist. Sometimes, when suddenly alarmed, it skips along the surface by using its muscular tail and tail fin for giving a push to the water. The skipping is done only over a very short distance after which the fish dives and clears away under cover of water.

CLIMATE*

The climate of this district is characterised by a hot summer and a pleasant winter season. The cold season starts in November and lasts till February. The period from March to the first week of June is the summer season and this is followed by the south-west monsoon season which lasts till the end of September. October is a transition month.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall are available for ten stations in the district for periods ranging from 37 to 91 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in tables 1 and 2. The average annual rainfall in the district is 1174.2 mm. (46.23"). The rainfall is fairly uniform throughout the district. About 81 per cent of the annual rainfall is received in the south-west monsoon season, July being the rainiest month. The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is not large. In the fifty-year period 1901 to 1950 the highest annual rainfall which amounted to 138 per cent of the normal occurred in 1922, while in the very next year 1923, the annual rainfall, was the lowest being only 53 per cent of the normal. There were five years when the rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal. At some of the stations rainfall less than 80 per cent of the normal have occurred on two or three consecutive years. As will be seen from table 2 the annual rainfall in the district was between 900 and 1400 mm. (35.43" and 55.12") in 34 years out of fifty.

On an average there are 59 rainy days (i. e., days with rain of 2.5 mm—10 cents—or more) in a year. This number varies from 52 at Sultanganj to 64 at Katoria.

The highest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 351.3 mm. (13.83") at Bangaon on 1890 July 27.

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*The write-up of this sub-section has been contributed by D. D G. of observatories (Climatology and Geophysics), Poona.

Temperature

There are meteorological observatories at Sabour and Bhagalpur. As the data for the latter stations are available for a few years only and as the meteorological conditions at the two stations are very similar, the climatological account which follows is based mainly on the data of Sabour. The data for Sabour may be taken as representative of the district as a whole. The cold season starts in November when temperatures begin to drop. January is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 23.6°C (74.5°F) and the mean daily minimum at 8.1° C (46.5 °F). During cold waves which sometimes affect the district in the wake of western disturbances which pass across north India in the winter season, the minimum temperature may go down to a degree or two above the freezing point of water. In February the temperatures increase slowly and from March onwards the increase is more rapid. May is the hottest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 37.0 °C (98.6°F). The maximum temperature in this month and the early part of June before the onset of the south-west monsoon may sometimes go above 45°C (113°F). With the onset of the monsoon by about the second week of June the day temperature drops down appreciably and there is some relief from the oppressive heat, but the night temperature remains at about the same level as in the summer. After the withdrawal of the monsoon by the end of September night temperatures drop rapidly while the day temperatures decrease slowly in October and fairly rapidly from November. The highest maximum temperature recorded at Sabour was 46.1 °C (115.0 °F) on 1931 June 12 and the lowest minimum temperature was 0.6° C (33.1° F) on 1934 January 19.

Humidity

March and April are the driest months of the year when the relative humidities are about 50 to 55 per cent in the mornings and 35 to 40 per cent in the afternoons. Humidities increase in May and June and in the monsoon season they are above 80 per cent. In October, November and December the relative humidities are between 70 and 80 per cent usually. Thereafter they decrease gradually.

Cloudiness

During the period October to April skies are generally clear or lightly clouded. The cloudiness increases from May and during the south-west monsoon season the skies are mostly heavily clouded or overcast.

Winds

Winds are generally light with a slight increase in force in the late summer and monsoon seasons. In May the winds are mainly from directions between north-east and south-east. In the monsoon season the winds are easterly or south-easterly. Winds are variable in October. In the rest of the year winds are south-westerly to westerly in the mornings and westerly to north-westerly in the afternoons.

Special weather phenomena

Storms and depressions particularly those in the late monsoon and post-monsoon months which originate in the Bay of Bengal and move in a north-westerly to northerly direction, affect the district and its neighbourhood and cause heavy rain and strong winds. Thunder storms occur during the period February to October, but their frequency is highest in the monsoon months. Those in April and May are sometimes violent. Fogs occur occasionally in the winter season.

Tables 3, 4 and 5 give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and the frequency of special weather phenomena respectively for Sabour.

TABLE

Normals and extremes

Station.	Number of years of data.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Bhagalpur	50	(a)11.9	19.8	12.5	17.3	57.4	173.0	245.6	268.2
		(b)0.9	0.5	1.2	1.3	3.1	8.6	13.7	13.7
Banka ..	50	(a)15.5	22.3	15.0	17.0	62.0	190.7	301.5	275.3
		(b)1.2	1.5	1.1	1.3	3.4	9.2	14.9	14.4
Colgong ..	50	(a)10.7	20.3	12.9	24.4	71.9	214.1	286.3	282.2
		(b)1.0	1.6	1.0	1.6	3.6	9.2	13.4	13.9
Bausi ..	50	(a)12.5	23.4	15.0	19.1	66.0	190.5	281.9	275.6
		(b)1.0	1.7	1.3	1.6	3.9	9.4	15.2	14.8
Sultanganj	34	(a)12.9	18.0	8.4	15.0	39.1	156.4	285.5	281.7
		(b)1.1	1.6	0.7	0.9	2.4	7.2	13.1	12.3
Katoria ..	29	(a)15.5	23.4	12.5	22.3	54.9	167.9	317.3	259.1
		(b)1.3	1.7	0.9	1.5	3.3	8.4	16.9	15.1
Sonhaula ..	27	(a)14.0	19.8	10.9	25.4	59.2	163.3	276.1	274.5
		(b)1.5	1.4	0.9	1.8	3.3	7.2	13.9	13.4
Amarpur	28	(a)15.7	25.7	15.2	17.3	66.8	183.4	341.4	275.8
		(b)1.3	1.9	1.1	1.3	2.9	7.1	15.3	13.8
Sabour ..	30	(a)13.7	20.1	9.7	25.1	55.4	170.4	256.3	266.2
		(b)1.2	1.6	0.8	1.9	3.7	8.4	15.0	14.8
Bangaon	45	(a)10.4	19.6	10.9	18.5	64.5	191.8	301.0	304.3
		(b)0.9	1.6	0.7	1.3	3.7	8.2	12.8	13.3
Bhagalpur (District)	..	(a)13.3	21.2	12.3	20.1	69.7	181.3	289.3	276.3
		(b)1.1	1.6	1.0	1.5	3.3	8.3	14.4	13.9

(a) Normal rainfall in mm.

(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more).

of Rainfall.

Sep-tember.	October.	Novem-ber.	Decem-ber.	Annual.	Highest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year†.	Lowest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year†.	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours.* Amount (mm).	Date.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
194.8	71.6	9.1	2.0	1133.2	156 (1911)	43 (1908)	233.4	1911 August 11.
9.0	2.8	0.6	0.2	56.6	..	.		
200.3	86.0	9.4	2.5	1204.1	153 (1904)	50 (1932)	300.0	1899 September 24.
10.3	3.6	0.6	0.3	61.8	..	..	..	
218.7	71.4	9.9	2.0	1224.8	195 (1922)	44 (1923)	230.9	1900 June 28.
9.1	3.3	0.5	0.2	58.4	..	..	..	
204.2	89.7	8.4	2.3	1188.6	156 (1938)	64 (1927)	236.7	1942 August 8.
9.8	3.5	0.6	0.2	63.2	..	..	.	
193.0	87.6	9.1	2.0	1100.7	148 (1936)	37 (1923)	317.5	1935 August 10.
9.0	2.4	0.5	0.3	61.5	..	..	..	
196.1	87.4	12.7	2.3	1171.4	137 (1928)	64 (1932)	180.3	1942 August 8.
10.4	3.4	0.8	0.3	61.0	..	..	174.4	1951 August 2.
189.7	80.5	10.4	1.3	1125.2	129 (1949)	59 (1934)	256.3	1929 October 8
8.6	3.1	0.6	0.2	56.1	..	.	170.2	1950 June 12.
217.4	103.1	10.9	3.3	1276.[illegible]	177 (1949)	54 (1924)		.
8.7	3.2	0.5	0.4	57.[illegible]	..	..	..	
219.4	77.7	7.9	2.0	112[illegible].9	137 (1946)	44 (1927)	170.2	1950 June 12.
10.3	3.0	0.7	0.3	61.7	.	.		
226.1	65.5	11.2	[illegible]	1247.9	135 (1905)	39 (1918)	351.3	1890 July 27.
9.0	2.4	0.5	0.2	54.6	..	..	.	
208.3	80.1	9.9	2.4	1174.2	138 (1922)	53 (1929)	..	..
9.4	3.1	0.6	0.5	58.5	.	..	..	

*Based on all available data up to 1958.

†Years given in brackets.

TABLE 2.

Normals of temperature and relative humidity.

(SABOUR.)

Month.	Mean daily maximum tem-perature.	Mean daily Minimum tem-perature.	Highest maximum ever recorded.		Lowest minimum ever recorded.		Relative Humidity.	
	°C	°C	°C	Date.	°C	Date.	0830	1730*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
January	23.6	8.1	29.0	1958 January 27	0.6	1934 January 19	82	64
February	25.9	10.6	33.3	1949 February 26	2.8	1950 February 12	76	55
March	32.7	15.4	41.1	1941 March 29	3.9	1945 March 8	54	37
April	36.5	21.1	43.3	1956 April 21	13.3	1957 April 10	52	37
May	37.0	24.7	45.1	1958 May 27	16.1	1934 May 30	67	53
June	34.8	26.3	46.1	1931 June 12	19.4	1934 June 2	78	72
July	32.2	26.3	37.8	1958 July 8	22.8	1956 July 26	85	83
August	31.7	26.2	37.4	1957 August 21	22.8	1933 August 23	85	85
September	32.0	25.8	37.8	1933 September 18	21.7	1956 September 27	84	83
October	31.2	21.7	35.6	1957 October 17	13.3	1954 October 31	78	76
November	28.1	13.9	33.3	1957 November 4	6.1	1934 November 30	74	72
December	24.6	8.8	29.4	1955 December 5	3.3	1942 December 27	80	71
Annual	30.9	19.1	..	..	..	.	75	66

*Hours I. S. T.

TABLE 3.

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the district (Date 1901—1950).

Range in mm	Number of years.	Range in mm.	Number of years.
1	2	3	4
601—700	2	1201—1300	10
701—800	0	1301—1400	5
801—900	3	1401—1500	8
901—1000	7	1501—1600	2
1001—1100	7	1601—1700	1
1101—1200	5		

TABLE 4.

Mean Wind Speed in Km/hr.

(SABOUR.)

January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4.5	5.5	7.4	9.5	10.5	8.9	9.3	5.7	7.1	4.3	3.5	4.0	6.9

TABLE 5.

Special Weather Phenomena.

(SABOUR.)

Mean number of days with—	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Thunder	0.6	3.0	2.7	4.0	7.2	14.1	11.3	13.0	16.1	2.1	0.0	0.1	74.2
Hail	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Dust-storm ..	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.7	2.7	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6
Squall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fog	4.4	2.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.4	8.1

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

It has been rightly observed that[1], "the limits of the present district of Bhagalpur being purely artificial, no connected account of the territory that now bears this name can be expected. Its history must be sought for in the history of the large areas of which it forms a part."

In length about 140 miles and breadth varying from 14 to 45 miles[2], and situated in the rich and fertile valley of the Ganga and being divided by it into two almost equal portions, the districts of Bhagalpur, named after its chief city[3], corresponds to

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[1] *Bengal District Gazetteer, Bhagalpur*, 1911, p. 26.

[2] *Ibid.*, p. 1.

4,226 square miles in area.

Towards the beginning of the 19th century at the time when Buchanan visited it, the district comprised an area of 8,255 square miles.

Referring to the extent of the district, Cap. Sherwill in his *Geographical and Statistical Report of the District of Bhagalpur* (1869) remarks that it comprised 7,801.04 square miles of territory and is divided by the Ganga into 2 unequal portions, the larger portion lying to the north of the river.

In Murphy's Report on the *Survey and Settlement Operation in the Bhagalpur District* (1902—10), the total area of the district given is 4,158 square miles of of which 2,374 are comprised in North Bhagalpur and 1,784 in South Bhagalpur.

Rennell's map of the south-east part of Bihar drawn in 1773 portrays the district of Bhagalpur, and is the earliest of its kind so far known. Next comes, the map drawn by Francis Buchanan in 1811, and published in *Buchanan's Journal*. There is another map of Bhagalpur town drawn in 1824, 1st November, by one Gopinath with sites indicated in a Persian Script. The map has been preserved in the Magistrate's Record Room, Bhagalpur. N. S. Sherwill's map of the district of "Bhagalpur" on 4 m.=1 inch scale drawn in 1852 and his map of Rajmahal Hills on a scale of 2 miles=1 inch and drawn in 1855 are also preserved in the above record room. *The Survey of Bhagalpur* by Major J. Macdonald and Cap. N .T. Steward was published in 1902. This map deals with the civil station and the environments in the years 1866-67, 1869 and 1870.

[3] In the absence of any reliable data, no definite statement can be made with regard to the origin and meaning of the name "Bhagalpur". The word cannot be accepted to have been derived from Bhagadattapur, named after Bhagadatta, who was the King of Pragjyotispur (Assam). Some authorities interpret it as "the city of good luck", or "the city of the refugees". (*Vide District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur*, 1911 *and Martin's Eastern India, Vol. II*). In an old Bhojpuri song, quoted in G. A. Grierson's page 27, the Bihar Peasant Life, the people of Bhagalpur have been referred to as runaways or fugitives.

The song runs thus—

Bhagalpur ke Bhagelia, Kahalgaun ke thug,
Patna ke diwaliya, tino namjad,
Sune pawe Chhaprahiya, tino ke rure rag.

It means, "the *Bhagels* of Bhagalpur, the *thugs* of Colgong, the bankrupts of Patna, are all famous (Sharpers) but if a man of Chhapra hears this, he will beat them all".

It seems not unlikely that here the people took shelter on account of constant Maratha aggressions on the neighbouring countries, or as the traditions run, the absconders were punished during the Muslim rule, or the place named after Bhaglu, some prominent but now an unknown historical figure.

some portions of the ancient kingdoms of Anga and Mithila. It is bounded on the north by Nepal; on the east, north of the Ganga, by the district of Purnea; on the south and east, south of the Ganga, by the Santhal Parganas and on the west by the districts of Darbhanga and Monghyr. The northern and the southern portions of the district, afford different physical characteristics. The north is the playground of rivers that flow from the Nepal hills, and the south has old alluvium soils, laterite uplands and hills. The northern portion is, therefore, subject to floods and the changing beds of the capricious hilly rivers, whereas the south is more stable, except the north-eastern corner, which is subject to occasional excesses of the two hill streams.

In his journal (p. 73) Buchanan observes,........(the name) "is said to have been given by the Mugal officers who collected a number of fugitives, and defended them in the plains from the violence and depredations of the disorderly chiefs of the interior."

Vedic and Epic Age

The people of Anga unknown to the Rigveda are mentioned in the Atharvaveda[1]. There is lack of evidence in vedic literature that Angas were non Aryan people that came overseas to eastern India. They were, in fact, the earlier Aryan immigrants[2]. Titikshu, the second son of Mahamanas, who was seventh in descent from Anu, founded the kingdom of Anava in the East and named it after his ancestor[3]. The Asura King Bali begot by his wife Sudesna five *Ksetraja* sons, viz., Anga, Vanga, Kalinga, Pundra and Sumha, and the Anava kingdom that expanded and developed under the asura king was named after his sons, and the five kingdoms thus formed were named Anga, Vanga, Kalinga, Pundra and Sumha. Separated from Magadha by the river Champa, Anga comprised the modern districts of Bhagalpur and Monghyr. The capital of Anga was Malini, also called Champa Malini in the Puranas[4]. Situated

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[1] *Atharvaveda*, V. 22, 14.

[2] *Vedic Age*, by Mozumdar and Pusalker, George Allen, Unwin, 1951, p. 258.

[3] *Ibid*, p. 279.

[4] *Matsya Purana*.

at a distance of four miles to the west of Bhagalpur, it was described in the Mahabharata as a place of pilgrimage[1]. No particulars are available about the kings in tho Anga genoology till we come to Lomapada, also called Romapala, who is placed seventh in the geneological list. Lomapada was a well known archer, and a great friend of king Dasarath of Ayodhya. Lomapada's great grandson Champa gave the name Champa to the Anga capital, which was till then known as Malini. Champa, also called Champapuri, was surrounded by groves of Champaka at the time of the Mahabharata[3]. The Buddhist works mention one queen Gaggara as having excavated an artificial lake[4], containing groves of Champaka trees on its banks. From the *Champaka Sreshthi Katha* a Jaina work, it appears that the town was in a flourishing condition. There were perfumers, spice-sellers, weavers, washerman, etc. This fair and fortified city, with its ramparts, gates and watch towers was regarded as one of the six great cities of northern India. Champa was a very sacred place to the Jainas and the Buddhists. Parsva, the immediate predecessor of Mahabir, is associated with Champa. It was visited by Lord Mahavira who spent here three *parjjusanas* (rainy season retirement). It was the birth place of Biraja-Jina author of *Tankavatara Sutra*, and also that of Palakapya Muni[5]; birth place and the place of death of Basupujya,[6] the 12th Jaina *Tirthankara*. Sona Kolaviza, the author of one of the Theragathas was a resident of Champa. At the time of Buddha, Champa was regarded as one of the six great cities of northern India, the other five being Rajagriha, Sravasti, Saketa, Kausambi and Benares. Amanda, the first and favourite disciple of Buddha, exhorted the latter to give up his earthly body in one of such cities. Subhadrangi, the mother of Asoka, was born at Champa. Her father was a poor Brahmin, who took her to Pataliputra and presented her to Bindusara, King of Magadha (347 to 319 B. C.). Champa is also traditionally the abode of Chand Sadagar the story of whose son Lakhindra

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[1] *The Mahabharata*, Vana Parva, Chapt. 85.

[2] *Vedic Age*. Mozumdar and Pulaskar, p. 293.

[3] *Anusasana Parva*. Chap. 42.

[4] May be identified with the large silted up tank called sarovara.

[5] Palakapaya Muni was the author of Hasty-Ayurveda, also called Gajachikitsa, etc. (Anandasrama Sanskrit series), a work on elephant ivory. After the manner of Puranas and in the form of a dialogue held in Champa between king Lomapada of Angra and the Sage, Palakapaya gives in 4 secs. an elaborate account of the ailments peculiar to elephants.

[6] At Nathnagar, a quarter of Champanagar, exists a temple of Digambara sect which is dedicated to Basupujya,

and his wife Behula is graphically mentioned in the Bengali poem called *Mansar Bhasan*. Snake worship and Behula Puja are still performed and a big Champa mela held. The king of Champapuri had two beautiful palaces, one called Gandalata at Kuruchatter now called Karpat, seven miles east of Bhagalpur, near the Goghanala, and the other at Kridasthali near Pathargata on the confluence of the Ganga and the Kosi[1]. A number of Jakata stories[2] mention merchants taking ships at Champa, and then either coasting to Ceylon or adventuring many days without sight of land to Suvarnabhumi. The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea proves that Bengal (which included Bihar) maintained an active overseas trade with south India and Ceylon in the first century A. D. The commodities exported are said to have consisted of Malabathrum, Gangetic spikenard, pearls and muslins of the finest parts.

After Lomapada the next famous king of Anga was Karna who built and held his court in Karnagarh. Major Wilford[3] and Buchanan Hamilton, being lost in the maze of the royal dynastic list with about half a dozen of kings having the name of Karna, failed to determine Karna of the Bharat war and the builder of Karnagarh. Karna was a faithful ally of the Kauravas and a sincere friend of Durjyodhana, the chief of the Kauravas. He was a pathetic victim of misfortune throughout his whole life. In reality the eldest of the Pandavas, he was never regarded as such by the Pandava brothers. Being deserted just after his birth by his mother Kunti, because he was born during her maidenhood by the Sun God, he was brought up by a worker in wood, who adopted him as his son. In spite of the social stigma of birth out of marriage, Karna was admitted to be one of the great heroes of the epic age almost unrivalled in war and bravery. It was not for the want of ingenuity in war, or lack of bravery, but out of sheer adverse fortune that he was killed by the third Pandava, his adversary.

BUDDHISTIC AGE

So far about the Vedic and Epic age. During the Buddhistic age, we learn that Satanika Parantap, the king of the Vatsyas, whose capital was Kausambi, near Allahabad, attacked Champa, then under the rule of King Dadibahana. But particulars about

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[1] *Geographical Dictionary of Ancient and Medieval India* by N. Dey, London, 1927, p. 44.

[2] *Maha-Janaka-Jataka*; Jataka VI, 34, no. 539.
History of Bengal, Vol. I. Edited by Mozumdar, Dacca, 1943, p. 661.

[3] Asiatic Researches, Vol. IX, Buchanan, p. 74.

the results of the war are not known. It, however, transpires, that sometime later, Anga grew powerful and there was no love lost between her and Magadha. For sometime Magadha remained an integral part of Anga. King Bhattiya of Magadha was defeated in war by Brahmadatta of Anga. But at a subsequent date the Goddess of Fortune frowned upon Anga and her prosperity was on the wane. Bimbisara (C. 603—551 B. C.), son of Bhattiya, revenged his father's defeat by putting Brahmadatta to death and annexing Anga to his empire. Champa passed to the hands of the Magadhan victor and remained as an appanage for centuries to come. After the death of Bimbisara, Ajatsatru (Kunika) (C. 551—519 B. C.) made Champa his capital, but his son Udayin (C. 519—503 B. C.) transferred the seat of Government to Pataliputra. With the loss of independence, the people of Champa lost all their morals and strength of character so much so, that in course of time they became notorious for their bad character [1].

Bimbisara.

Ajatsatru.

As a province of Magadha, Anga witnessed along with the other parts of the Empire, vicissitudes of fortune and a change of ruling dynasties. The Sisunagas, the Nandas, the Mauryas, the Sungas and the Guptas ruled in chronological succession over Anga. The country must have felt the brunt of Kalinga, Satavahana, Greek (Menander) and Kushana invasions. The end of the Kushana rule towards the first half of the 2nd century A. D. synchronises with the rise of the Bharasiva Nagas, who originally issued from Baghelkhand, set up their rule in the Uttar Pradesh and east and west Bihar, of the two capitals of the empire one was Champavati or Champa. The Gupta rule that extended over Anga witnessed the renaissance of Indian art and a brilliant development of works in metals, such as iron and copper. A copper statue of Buddha about 7½ feet in height, delicately executed, discovered at Sultanganj, testify to the importance of the place and its vicinity as producing marvellous specimen of handiwork in bronze and other metals. Fa-Hien, the Chinese pilgrim, who visited Magadha in the beginning of the 5th century A. D. while following the course of the Ganga descending eastwards,

The Bharasiva Nagas

The Imperial Guptas (320—455 A.D.).

Fa-Hien (405—411 A. D.).

[1] Champa has been described in the Dasakumara Charita as abounding in rogues.

found on the southern bank the great Kingdom of Champa[1].

Later Guptas of Magadha and Sasanka.

With the break up of the Gupta empire, the later Guptas of Magadha, whose connections with the imperial Guptas have not been ascertained till now, established supremacy over Magadha. Adityasena, son of Madhava Gupta and the eighth king of the line possessed administrative talents and military skill that won for him the title of the "guardian of the world, by whose white umbrella the whole circuit of the earth was covered". An inscription of Adityasena discovered on the Mandara Hill[2] relates that both he and his queen Shri Kondadevi installed an image of Narahari (Man-lion), an incarnation of Vishnu, on the hill, and that the queen performed an act of piety by excavating a tank named Papaharini[3] at the foot of the said hill. Adityasena was, as stated in the aforesaid inscription, "a ruler of the earth up to the shores of the oceans......and a performer of Aswamedha and other great sacrifices". His kingdom included Magadha, Anga and Vanga. The political destiny of Anga next passed to Sasanka, the king of Karnasuvarna (near Berhampur in Bengal). Originally a military adventurer and a feudal chief entitled Mahasamanta, he extended his sphere of political influence in south Bihar, Benares and Ganjam (south Orissa).

Harsha (606—647 A.D.).

Hieun-Tsang.

After Sasanka, the sovereignty of Anga passed to Harshavardhana, of Sthanisvara, who possessed undying reputation for warlike and peaceful activities. Hieun-Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, visited India during the rule of this monarch and visited main Buddhist centres. He had visited Champa, or Chen-po as he calls it, situated at a distance of 300 li or 50 miles east of Monghyr. About Champa he writes[4] the Capital has the river Ganga to the north, the soil is level and fertile, regularly cultivated and productive; the temperature is wild and warm; the manners of the people are simple and honest. There are several *sangharamas* (Viharas) mostly in ruins, with about

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1 *Travels of Fa-Hien.* J. Legge. Clarendon Press, Oxford. 1886. p. 100.

2 Mandar Hill, or Mandargiri, is situated near Baunsi in the Banka subdivision, and at a distance of 30 miles south of Bhagalpur, the headquarters station. Besides being a place of pilgrimage, the hill on account of many interesting ruins possesses value in the eye of the antiquarian.

According to the Pauranic version, Vishnu defeated the notorious giant Madhukaitab in a battle that had continued for 10,000 years, and ultimately piled the Mandar hill over his body, for preventing the monster from doing any harm to the world. There is also a story in the Mahabharata to the effect that the hill was used by the Gods and the Asura in churning the ocean.

3 At first called Manohar Kund. The tradition runs that a Raja of Kanchipur called Chola was cured of his leprosy by taking a dip into its water. In gratefulness, the Raja widened and deepened the tank, and since his days, a fair is held here every year in the month of Pous.

4 *Buddhist Records of the Western World.* S. Beal, Vol. II, p. 191.

200 priests. They follow the teaching of the little Vehicle (*hinajana*). There are some twenty Deva temples. The walls of the capital are built of brick, and are several feet high. The foundations of the wall are raised on a lofty embankment, so that by their high escarpment, they can defy the attack of enemies.

To the east of the city 140 or 150 li the south of the river Ganga is a solitary detached rock, craggy and steep and surrounded by water[1]. On the top of the peak is a Deva temple.

From what he read in Hiuen-Tsang's account Cunningham concluded, that the political boundary of Anga then extended from Lakhiterai (Lakhisarai) to Rajmahal on the Ganga, and from Parasnath Hill to Kalna on the Bhagirathi[2].

At this time Champa was under the rule of the Khetauris of Malorigin and was a powerful kingdom[3].

Gopala (C. 750—770 A.D.) the elected Pala King of Bengal, conquered Magadh and South Bihar in the third decade of the eighth century. Under Dharmapala (C. 770—810 A.D.) the son of Gopala the frontier of the empire extended to the west of the Sone river. As a Buddhist and a patron of education and scholarship, the Emperor of Bengal founded Shri Vikramsila Vihara on a hillock on the bank of the Ganga in Northern Magadh[4].

University of Vikramsila.

Surrounded by a strong wall, the Vihara was constructed after a good design. With the central temple adorned with Mahabodhi images, there were all told 108 teachers inside the enclosure[5]. The outer wall surrounding the whole monastery was embellished with artistic work, with a painted portrait of the famous scholar Nagarjuna adorning the right hand side of the principal entrance and that of Atisa on the left. The University of Vikramsila, also

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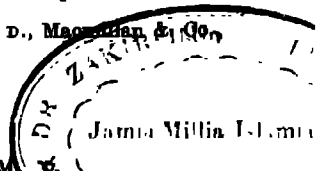
[1] Cunninghum identifies it with the picturesque rocky island off Patharghata with its temple-crowned summit. *Ancient Geography of India*, p. 477, also *Archaeological Survey*, Vol. XV, p. 54

[2] *Cunninghum's Ancient Geography of India*, Edited by S. N. Mozumdar, Calcutta 1924. p. 540.

[3] *Bhagalpur District Gazetteer*, p. 27.

[4] Cunninghum identified it with the village of Silao near Baragaon. (A. S. R. VIII, 75) Dr. S. C. Vidyabhusan with Sultanganj in Bhagalpur District; N. L. De with Patharaghata hill near Colgong (J. A. S. B. VI. 7) Dr. Banerjee Shastri takes it to be Keur, near Ausalgunj, "Indirect line with Nalanda (within a distance of 15 miles) and Adantapuri. J. B. C. Rs. XV. 276. Some favour the modern villages of Oriap, Antichak and Modhorampur near Vatesharsthan, 6 miles north of Colgong Railway station, as being the site

[5] *Ancient Indian Education* by R. K. Mookerji, M. A., PH. D., Macmillan & Co., London, 1947, p. 587.

founded by Dharmapala included six colleges, and a central hall, called the House of Science with its six gates opening on the six colleges. The gates of the University like those of Nalanda, it is said, were guarded by most learned scholars called *Dvara-Pandits*, who were the custodians of scholarship. Students were admitted to the university on the recommendations of these erudite gate-keepers. We come across the names of these six keepers of the gates, who worked as such, during the period 955—83 A.D. Ratnakara Santi, E. Gate: Vagisvarakirti of Banaras, W. Gate: Naropa, N. Gate: Prajnakaramati, S. Gate: Ratnavajra of Kashmir, First central Gate: Janasrimitra of Gauda, Second Gate The President of the University was not only a scholar of outstanding merit but also a religious sage. Buddha-Jnana-pada, was the President during the time of Dharmapala: Dipankara of Srijnana Atisa was the the head of the institution between 834—38 A.D. As an important feature of the administration of the University it should be noted. that the teaching was controlled and conducted by a Board of prominent teachers and that there was one joint Board for both the Universities of Vikramsila and Nalanda. The utility of maintaining one uniform standard of teaching in the different Indian Universities that form the chief problem of the present day educationists was very ably solved in India more than one thousand years ago. Thus we find there was an exchange of teachers between the Vikramsila and Nalanda University and scholars like Dipankara and Abhayakara working at both the places. As regards the working of the university, the rules and regulations governing the daily life of the resident studies and allied matters, nothing definite in details may be said. Nalanda is better off in this respect, the detailed working having been laid down by Hiuen Tsang, who was supplemented by I-Tsing. But no similar account of Vikramsila is available. Nevertheless, it goes without saying that "the success of the work of Vikramsila as a seat of learning is amply demonstrated by the quality and quantity of its output, the prodigies of piety and learning it produced, and the profound contributions they made to knowledge and region by their numerous writings which practically built up the culture and civilisation of another country, Tibet."[1]

Reputed Scholars of Vikramsila.

Here we think it worthwhile to refer to those eminent scholars of the Vikramsila University who were deputed to Tibet for working, and wrote outstanding works in Tibetan. Acharya Buddha Jnanapada, who held the post of Acharva for ordination at Vikramsila, developed the study of Mantra-Vajracharya, that was taught only at this University and nowhere else. The nine works that he wrote in Sanskrit on Tantra are lost but are preserved in Tibetan: Vairachana Rakshita, who wrote several works in Sanskrit and

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[1] *Ibid*, p. 589.

translated into Tibetan several Tantrika works, accompanied his Guru Padmasambhava to Tibet about 750 A. D. He was known as Mahapandita and Mahacharya: Jetari, an inhabitant of Varendra, and originally a student and later a professor won the title of Pandita: Prajnakaramati, already referred to as the keeper of the south gate, wrote several works in Sanskrit and Tibetan: Ratnakara, the keeper of the East Gate, having first obtained ordination at Odantapura University,[1] entered Vikramsila as a pupil of Jetari. He was the author of thirteen works in Sanskrit, and went to Ceylon at the invitation of the King to preach Buddhism. Jnana Sri, a native of Gauda and the keeper of the second Gate mentioned before, wrote several works in Sanskrit, that were later rendered into Tibetan by him; Ratnavajra of Kashmir, another gate-keeper, came to Vikramsila at the age of thirty-six or so, and by virtue of his scholarship won the title of Pandit. Vagisvara of Banaras, also a gate-keeper of the University wrote in Sanskrit, and his famous work Hiityubanchanopadesa was translated into Tibetan. Dipankara Sri Jnana, also known as one of the greatest of Indian scholars, was born in 980 A. D. in a wealthy family of Gauda. Having renounced his riches at an early age of 19, he entered a monastery at Odantapuri, and completing his education and obtaining mastery over Hinayana, Mahayana, Vaiseshika and Tantras sailed off to Suvarnadvipa (in Pegu) for further studies. There he passed the next twelve years of his life and then returned to India and was elected Head of the community of Buddhist Monks of Magadha and Gauda, as a result of the victory that he had won over the monks in a discussion held at Bodhgaya. In reward of his merit King Nayapala made him the head of the Vikramsila University. At the invitation of the Tibetan King Chan Chub. Dipankara proceeded to Tibet to purge Tibetan Buddhism of its many corruptions. He thus worked in Tibet for 13 years (1040—1053 A. D.) and passed away near Lhasa at the age of 73. Some 200 works on Tibetan. Buddhism are ascribed to him. Viryasimha was an associate of Atisa and he helped the latter to translate his works in Tibetan. Athayakaragupta, a native of Gauda and a monk, began his life as the family priest of the King Rampala. A great writer in Sanskrit and a translator in Tibetan, he obtained the title of Arya-Mahapandita. He was present at Vikramsila at the time of the first Turkish invasion of Magadha. Tathagata Rakshita, a native of Orissa, and a Kayastha by birth, was at first a student and then a professor of Vikramsila obtained by dint of merit the titles of "Mahapandita" and "Upadhyaya". He wrote on Tantra shastra in Sanskrit and later translated them into Tibetan. Ratnakirti, was a student of Vikramsila who was known as Updhyaya, Pandit and Mahapandit. His Tibetan translations are an asset to Tibetan literature Manjusri,

[1] Bihar Sharif, Patna district.

was another celebrated Pandit of Vikramsila who produced Tibetan translations of Sanskrit works. Dharmakirti, was a native of Tibet and a student of Vikramsila University. He translated many Sanskrit works into Tibetan: Sakya Shri Bhadra, was native of Kashmir and a reputed logician. He was at Vikramsila when the Muslims destroyed it.

By virtue of their military conquests the Palas became the inheritors of Vanga (Eastern Bengal) and Gauda (Western Bengal). Anga forming a component part of the latter in those days. The Anargha-raghava of Murari, who flourished in the latter part of the eighth century A.D. refers to Champa as the Capital of Gauda. This connection of Champa with a Pala King of Gauda has been inferred from the study of the Jaynagar image inscription also[1]. The glory of the Pala empire won under Gopala and his two immediate successors, Dharmapal and Devapala (C. 810---815 A.D.) suffered a wane after the death of the last named sovereign, and during the reign of Narayanpala (C. 854--908), Anga, Vanga and Magadha paid homage to the Rastrakuta King Amoghavarsa I (814 -877 A.D.) [2] and to his son Krishna II (877—913 A.D)[3]. In addition to this defeat Narayanpala had also to eat the humble pie at the hands of the Pratihara King Mahendrapala I (C. 885—910 A.D). An attempt however, was made by Narayanpala to regain his lost prestige, and for sometime at least, he recovered north Bengal and Bihar and acquired sovereignty over Kanauj.[4] An inscription dated the sixth year of the reign of Gopala II, the successor of Narayanpala, found at Jajilpara, in Maldah District, refer to the victorious camp of the King at Vataparvatika on the Ganga, referring obviously to Vateshwarasthana at Patharghata, near Colgong. There are epigraphic references to some Chandella [5] and Kalachuri incursions into Bengal in the 11th century A.D. In the 11th Century as well, Bengal and Anga suffered at the hands of Jatavarman the founder of the Jadava dynasty of East Bengal, [6]

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[1] *History of Bengal*, Vol I. Dacca 1943, P. 31.

[2] This line of Kings usually described as Rastrakutas of Manyakheta (Malkhed, in the Nizams dominions) Their original home was Karnataka, and their mother tongue Kanarese. Narayanpala's submission to the Rastrakutas has been referred to in the Nilgund and Sirur stone inscriptions of Amoghavarsa. See *Dynastic History of N. India*, Vol. I. 301.

[3] The Deoli grant of Krishna III. *Dynastic History of N. India*, Vol. I, 301.

[4] Bhagalpur Copper plate of Narayanpala.

[5] The Khajuraho epigraph tells us that the wives of the kings of Kanchi, Andra, Radha and Anga lingered in the prisons of King Dhanga, son of Yasovarman of Jeja Bhukti (Bundel Khund). *Ibid*, p. 678.

[6] The Belava Copper plate of Bhojvarman. *Ibid*. pp. 331—33, Jatavarman was a Rajput of the Yadava class, and he migrated from the Punjab.

and the Gangeya King of Dehala (C.P.)[1]. Mathana also called Mahana, the maternal uncle of Rampala, the king of Bengal, became the feudatory ruler of the principality of Anga, paying obedience to the ruler of Bengal[2]. Lakhsman Deva, the Paramara king of Malwa, and the great grandson of Bhoja, is said to have defeated them[3].

Under the suzerainty of the Palas, Anga was influenced by the culture that developed under them. The Vedic culture that gathered strength in Bengal, received an impetus in Anga as well. Brahmins well-versed in the Vedas and the Vedangas, and adept in the performance of sacrifices received stipends and royal grants[4]. Saivism or the cult of Siva, that developed in Bengal in those days was that of the Pasupata sect[5].

The Sena Kings.—It was by means of conquest that the Senas, who were originally Karnata Kshatriyas coming to Bengal in the train of Vikramaditya VI, Chalukya, became the legal successors of the Palas in Bengal and Anga. Lakshmansena (1185--1206), the son of Ballalsen, and an important and powerful king consolidated the Sena Kingdom. But the last days of his rule were unhappy and tragic. Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khilji, a follower of Muhammad of Ghor, being attracted by the prevalent conditions in Bihar, than almost unprotected as a result of the fall of the Gahadvallas, marched his Turkish troops to Bihar and Bengal and brought them under Muslim sway. The effects of this conquest over the country and particularly over Nalanda, and Vikramsila Universities have been fully narrated by the author of Tabakati-Nasiri, and need no reiteration here. In fact, the two Universities stated above were levelled to the ground, their students were either put to sword or scattered pell mell and a great number of books put to the flames.

Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion of Bengal and Bihar and destruction of Vikramsila University.

Muhammadan Rule.—Thus were Vanga and Anga brought under the sway of the Muslim rulers of Delhi, and were ruled by the Turco-Afghans, Saiyyads, Lodis and the Mughals in chronological succession. Bhagalpur formed part of Sarkar Monghyr, one of the seven sarkars into which Bihar was divided at the time of Muslim conquest. Towards the close of the 14th century, Bihar was incorporated to the kingdom of Jaunpur and remained as its appendage for about a century when it was conquered by Hussain-shah of Bengal and later by the rulers of Delhi.

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[1] *See* Dynastic History of *N. India*, p. 772.

[2] Saranath inscription of Kumardevi, queen of the Gahadvala King Govinda Chandra (C. 1114—55 A.D.).

[3] *See* History of the *Paramara* Dynasty by D. C. Ganguly.

[4] *See* Bhagalpur Copper plate of Narayanpala, History of Bengal, Vol. I, p. 396.

[5] *Ibid.*

Under the Muslim occupation, Bhagalpur did not rise to any political prominence, except that it was the seat of the Pargana officer, and that it being the only convenient route leading to Bengal, the soldiery passed to and fro this district on either punitive expeditions or their return journey to the subah, or the provincial capital. In the fourth decade of the sixteenth century, while on his way to Bengal campaign, Humayun was held up by his astute Afghan rival Shershah in the narrow defile between the Ganga and the Rajmahal Hills. Humayun, no doubt, passed through Bhagalpur on that occasion. From the account of revenue assessment at the time of Akbar as reproduced in the Ain-i-Akbari, we learn that the total amount of revenue collected from Pargana Bhagalpur was 46,96,110 dams [1]. In fact, this amount seem to be the highest in comparison with the revenue that was realised from the other 21 parganas that constituted Sarkar Monghyr. Besides yielding the highest amount of revenue, Bhagalpur hardly played any remarkable political role during the Muslim rule, and it surely gave precedence to Monghyr on account of its strategic position on the Ganga. Bhagalpur, however, receives mention in the Muhammadan chronicles of the 17th century.

On their way to Bengal, the royal force of Akbar marched through the town of Bhagalpur in 1573 and 1575. During the second Bengal campaign led against the rebellions Afghan king of the place, Mansingh the General of the Imperial forces, made Bhagalpur the temporary headquarters of the army. Again in 1580 when the military revolt of Bengal against Akbar commenced, Todar Mall, the Minister-*cum*-General, marched down to meet the rebels as far as Monghyr. With a cavalry of 30,000 the insurgents were encamped at Bhagalpur. Todar Mall prevailed upon the local Zamindars to cut off all supplies to the rebels and thus forced them to retreat. For nearly two centuries Bihar was governed by the Viceroys of the Delhi Emperor, with their seat at Rajmahal. The town of Bhagalpur was afterwards made the seat of aumil (Governor) or imperial Fauzdar or military governor [2]. They do not appear to have ranked as high as the governors of Purneah and few of them got the title of Nawab.

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[1] A dam is equivalent to one-fourth of a rupee.

[2] Buchanan, in his Account (Pub. by B & O. Research Society, Pat. 1939), page 65, gives the names of the following Muslim Governors :—

In the reign of Muhammad Shah (1719—48) were Dolasag Khan, Reza Jammun Khan, Rahimdad Khan, Ali Quili Beg, Amiruddin Khan, Hendali Khan and Ali Jawed Khan.

In the reign of Ahmad Shah (1748—54) there were Ali Quli Khan, Bahamun Khan and Aliquli Khan in the reign of Alamgir II (1754—59) there were Subkhurali Khan, Jafurali Khan, Syed Mukuram Khan, and Sheikh Fakhruddin.

In the reign of Shah Alam (1759—1806) there were Mir Musoudali, Sultan Daud, Waresali Khan, Sadurat Haq Khan and Zainul Abedin Khan who was succeeded by an English gentleman.

Not far from Bhagalpur towards its southern direction lies Umarpur which is associated with the name of Prince Shah Shuja. Situated near the range of hills, full of dense forests infested with tigers and other games, the place became an object of attraction to the prince. Besides buildings for his own residence and that of his staff that he constructed, he excavated a tank and a masjid, that still bear his name [1]. Over and above the constructions of a few mosques and tanks here and there, the Muslim occupation of Bhagalpur has left as its heritage the Muhammadan nomenclature of places and sites. Thus names such as Aligunj, Quazi Chak, Kuzwali Chak, Khanjarpur, Munsoorganj, Musakhchouk, Moulnachouk, Sujaganj, Sarai, Tatarpur, Urdu Bazar are all reminiscent of the Muslim Rule. These place names have their value.

The important monuments were those of Ibrahim Hussain Khan at Khanjarpur (built in the 17th century). Dargah of Moulana Shah Baz; or Pir Shah Jangi Shah Baz; a mosque and monument of a saint built in the 17th century by Hazrat Sayed Ali, mosque at Bhikanpur built in the 15th century by Bandugi Shah Neknam; a mosque at Qazichak, at Colgong the remains of Mahmud Shah, the last independent King of Bengal, who died in 1539. The

Bhagalpur Seminary.

Muslim administration is further associated with the establishment of an educational institution at Bhagalpur [2] for imparting knowledge in Arabic and Persian. This seminary was sponsored by Maulana Shah Baz, who was originally a native of Bihar, and later of Bhagalpur by adoption. The said maulana was held in high repute for his piety and learning, and the number of students that he taught was 200, whose expenses he defrayed from a fund which was established from the bounty of the Emperors Jahangir and Shahjahan and the generosity of the wealthy. Maulana Muhammad Salam, the eldest of the four sons of Shah Baz, who succeeded the latter, as the head of the seminary, obtained from Prince Shah Shuja 500 bighas of land in pargana Colgong and 19 bighas in Bhagalpur, the later for the purpose of constructing a building for the seminary. Moulana Salam had 150 students on the roll. Abdul Latif succeeded Salam, and the former by his third son, Moulana Taqi. After Taqi came Muhammad Afsum, then came Hafiz and Aukil. The help that was rendered to the seminary by Jahangir (1605—1627) and Shahjahan (1628—1658) was continued under Alamgir (1608—1707), Bahadur Shah (1707—12), Farukhsiyar (1713—18), Muhammad Shah (1718—48), Ahmad Shah

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[1] At a place called Kaja, about 10 miles S.E. from thana Kodwar Shah Shuja is said to have had a hunting seat. The Prince built a column of brick at Taraha, S.W. four coses. His hunting seat was near a small fort built by A. Shakurali Khan; this was the residence of a military officer, who was employed to protect or overawe the zamindars of Barkop, Parasanda and Nayadea, Buchanan, p. 80.

[2] Judicial letter sent to John Shore, President of the Committee of Revenue, Fort William, dated 1st August 1783.

(1748—54) and others. Aukil was succeeded by Abid and the latter by Muwahhud. Under Taqi the number of scholars were 200, under Afsum 80, and under Hafiz 60 only. But the number increased 150 under Afsum and under Abid it decreased to 30.

The different parwanas containing an account of the land and the stipend granted for the support of the said educational institution contain not only the names of the emperors under whose reign they were granted but also the names of the governors or fouzdars. For the history of the administration of Bhagalpur, the names of the governors are now worth recording. Motabik Hazi Muhammad Dewan, 1089 H., 21st year of Alamgir's reign; Motabik Muhammad Beg 1116 H., 2nd year of Bahadur Shah's reign; Delair Khan, 1st year of Farrukh Suyar's reign; Motabik Abdullah Khan, 1125 H., 3rd year of Farrukh Suyar; Motabik Delazra, 1127 H., 1st year of Muhammad Shah; Golam Hussain Khan, 1134 H., 10th year of Muhammad Shah; Muh. Saduk, 1154 H., Alla Cooly, 1163 H., Nawab Jafar Ali Khan, 1166, Syed Warris Ali Khan, 1174 H., and Muzaffar Jang 1177 H.

The total amount of land granted to the seminary was 3,724.1 bighas, yielding a revenue of 370.4 rupees and the stipend amount to 25.93 rupees.

Judicial system.—We also get a glimpse of the judicial arrangements of Bhagalpur during the rule of the Muslims[1]. In the archives of the Collector of Bhagalpur there are two old letters dating 5th July and 1st November 1792 from the Collector of Bhagalpur to the President, Council of Revenue, Fort William, Bengal, that furnish reports of the persons by whom the Qazi office was held in the district, of the functions of the Qazis their salaries and other incidental details. Under the Chief Qazi of Suba Bihar, there were two Qazis, one for Bhagalpur and the other for Rajmahal. The Qazi of Bhagalpur, had under him four principal assistants, who resided at Bhagalpur Colgong, Bihpur and Gogri. In theory the district Qazi of Bhagalpur had not only to try the criminal cases, but also to witness deeds, perform marriages and funerals. But in practice, however, he attended the criminal court only, and entrusted his other duties to the care of the assistants. The four assistant Qazis helped by Sub-Assistant Qazis placed at different places. These Sub-Assistants numbered five in pargana Bhagalpur, three at Colgong, three at Bihpur and the same number at Gogri. The salary of the Qazis of Bhagalpur was rupees sixty-five only per month and those of his principal assistants rupees sixty only. The Sub-Assistant Qazis got no salary but obtained "fees" from the parties, that varied from rupee one to annas four in the case of marriages, funerals and in witnessing documents.

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1. Dr. K.K. Basu's article, Administration of Justice in Bhagalpur, Journal, Bihar and Orissa Research Society, Vol. XX, 1934.

The Qanungo system.—The Chief Qanungoes were those of Bhagalpur, Colgong and of Kharagpur. The quanungoship of Bhagalpur and of a portion of Colgong was conferred by Hussain Shah, the king of Bengal upon Sriram Ghosh, and it remained in hereditary succession for about 200 years in the family of Sriram. Sriram came from Murshidabad and settled in Bhagalpur in the reign of Shah Jahan. After Sriram came Krishnadas, after him Bhagabati, then Prananath, Kripanath, Dayanath, Mayanath and Parashnath. When the Qanungo system was abolished in 1787, some considerable area was settled with Parashnath personally and since then he and his successors became the chief zamindars of the district.

The qanungoship of Colgong was conferred upon a Hindu renegade on the third year of the reign of Alamgir. The qanungo's grandson Aukil Muhammad was a contemporary of Parashnath.

The first Muhammadan Raja of Kharagpur, Todar Mall, who took the name of the Raja Afjun, obtained his title from the emperor Jahangir in 1615. He was also appointed qanungo of Mohalat Kharagpur by the Mughal Emperor. On different occasions the Rajas of Kharagpur asserted and tried to enforce by arms a claim to the qanungoship of Bhagalpur. Raja Afjun, on an asserted title to 13 gundas in the rupee of the *rusoom qanungoey* received by Dayanath, the grandfather of Parashnath had with aid of an armed force plundered Dayanath's house of all his property and with it carrying away Loknath, the younger son of Dayanath, whom he kept in confinement till his father paid rupees ten thousand which Raja Afjun asserted to be due to him.

As qanungo of Bhagalpur Parashnath received Rs. 6,238 yearly in money and held lands of an annual value of Rs. 4,089. As qanungo of part of Colgong he received Rs. 436 annually in money and held lands valued at Rs. 26. Aukil Muhammad, qanungo of the remainder of Colgong, received Rs. 1,326 per year. The total amount of qanungoes *rusoom* collected by Qadir Ali of Kharagpur was Rs 8,012. When the qanungoship was abolished Parashnath was given a special pension of Rs. 200 per month and the *Nankar* lands. Aukil Muhammad was given a pension of Rs. 40 per month but no allowance was made to Raja Qadir Ali.

Currency and coinage.—The coins[1] that passed current in the several districts consisted of *Sonats*, *Siccas* and Rupees. The *Sonats* and *Siccas* were named after Murshidabad and Patna, the places where they were struck. The Murshidabad *Sonats* were perfect in weight and quality. They were issued in the reigns of

1. Revenue letters sent from Collector of Bhagalpur, dated 7th November 1776, etc., preserved in the Collector's Record Room, Bhagalpur.
Vide Dr. K.K. Bose's article, "Currency and Coinage in Bihar under the Hon'ble Company", Vol. XXX, 1944, p. 227

Muhammad Shah (1719—48), Ahmad Shah (1748—54) and Alamgir II (1754—59). The Murshidabad *sicca* rupees had an weight equal to *Sonats* and were issued in the 11th, 12th, 15th and 19th years of the reign of Shah Alam II (1759—1806). The rupees were designated "Dacca" and "Benares" after the names of their places of issue. The "Dacca" or "Jahangirnagar" rupees weighed like Murshidabad *Sonat* and *Sicca*. Azimabadi (Dacca) rupees coined in the reigns of Muhammad Shah, Ahmad Shah and Alamgir II were of purest quality. Benares rupees, struck in the 17th and 18th years of the reign of Shah Alam, were perfect in quality. The old Benares rupees were those that had been issued by Alamgir and were deficient in quality as well as weight. Farrukhabad rupees of Alamgir like the old Benares rupees were deficient both in the quality of silver and weight.

There was hardly any standard coin in the different districts It varied from one district to another. The different standards, therefore, led to the practice of charging commissions and *battas* at the time of exchanging one species by another. Again there was no uniformity in the commission charge or *batta*. The sudder bazar rate varied from the mofussil bazar rate. The Murshidabad *Sonats* had to pay 6.1 per cent in the mofassil, and 1.9 per cent at the sudder bazar at the time of reducing them to *sicca* coins. The Dacca rupees commission was 9.6 and 3.2 per cent at the Mofussil and Sudder respectively. Besides the aforesaid *Copper* silver coins, copper coins and cowries were also in circulation. The madosic copper coin (2=1 anna, and 1=160 cowries, Fallos (4=1 anna, and 1=80 cowries), Neem Fallos (8-1 anna and 1=40 cowries), Paw Fallos (16=1 anna and 1=20 cowries) were in circulation The Madosic pice contained on the adverse, the words "Shah Alam Badshah" and on the reverse "Julus sun". The fallos, Neem Fallos and Paw Fallos contained similar inscriptions both on the obverse and reverse. In 1765 when the Diwani or Revenue Administration of English Rulers of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was granted to East India Company, the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II reigned. Bhagalpur District was a huge tract in the east of Sarkar Mungir, Subah Bihar, lying altogether to the south of the Ganga except the pargana of Chai, but having no fixed boundary on the south and west. In the first of decade of the 19th century the district of Bhagalpur included most of the modern district of Monghyr and the Santhal Parganas.

Formation of the district.

But latter, the southern portion was restricted in area and the northern portion greatly extended. The first great reduction in the area of the southern portion was made in 1832 when a separate district with Monghyr as headquarters was formed. A great addition followed in 1838 when the three parganas were transferred from Tirhut to Bhagalpur. In 1855 after the Santhal Rebellion, the Santhal Parganas District was formed, and the previous increase

in area was counterbalanced. In 1864 Bhagalpur still further lost the character of south Ganga district which it had possessed in the eighteenth century, by the addition of Kabkhand, Uttarkhand and parts of Nathpur, Dhapar, etc., about 700 square miles of country on the north of the river. In 1874 the area of the district was still further diminished by the transfer of about 614 square miles of territory to Monghyr. In recent years Bhagalpur district was again shorn of a certain area on the other side of the Ganga which went to create Saharsa district.

Early British Administrators of the district.

In 1769 the series of Muslim governors terminated, and an Englishman, named William Harwood[1] was appointed the first supervisor with his head-quarters at Rajmahal to superintend the local collection of revenue. Bhagalpur was not then a separate revenue area but was under the supervision of Rajmahal for this purpose. In 1774 he was succeeded by Barton who continued in office till 1779 to be succeeded by his own assistant Cleveland, who became the first Collector. Cleveland remained in office till 30th November 1783 when on account of his ill health (which ultimately carried him away on 13th January 1784) reducing him to the necessity of seeking relief for a change of air, left Bhagalpur leaving the charge of his district to the care of his assistant Charles Cockrell.

The latter carried on his duties till 19th February 1784, when he was relieved by Chapman. Chapman was followed by Davies and the latter by Adair who continued till 1789. After Adair came A. Seton who carried on office till 9th March 1790, when he was transferred to the post of Collector of Bihar, and left the charge temporarily to his Head Assistant Samuel Davis who was relieved of his charge by James Grant on April 13, 1790. Grant was succeeded by Dickinson, Fombelle, and F. Hamilton, the last continuing in office till 1816. Then came Ricketts, Battye, Collins, Sage, Ward, Stonhouse, Star, Dunbar and James.

Measures to stop incursions of the hillmen.

Incursions of hillmen from the south of the district presented a problem to its early British administrators. The Muslim administrators had to face similar problems, which they tried to solve through the establishment of Ghatwali Tenures.[2] They originated in assignment of land at a very remote period for the protection of the *ghats* or passes in the hills against the incursions

1. Revenue letter sent, dated the 20th October 1774 (Collector's Record Room, Bhagalpur, also Revenue letter received from W. Hastings and others, dated the 20th September 1774 Ghatwali was the name applied to the tenure of land by those whose duty it was to protect the district from the incursions of the tribes which inhabited the districts of Ramgarh and the eastern portions of the Santhal country *Ghatwal* or *ghatwar* means one who guards the *ghats* or mountain passes.

2 *See* Revenue letter sent by G. Dickinson, Collector of Bhagalpur, dated July, 1797, to William Cowper, Board of Revenue (Collector's Record Room, Bhagalpur). Also Murphy's Survey and Settlement Operation, Bhagalpur, p. 18.

of the Marathas *Ghatwali system* especially, but also of other marauding tribes and were held by the *Ghatwals* or guards of the passes, on a service tenure with the additional payment of a small *peshkash* or tribute to the zamindar, in whose property they were situated. The zamindar had no authority to resume such lands, the service not being one of personal nature to the zamindar, but a public service rendered to Government for the general safety and welfare of the country. The early British administrators of the district allowed the *Ghatwali* tenure to continue, in addition, appointed Captain James Brown, an officer who had the command of a Light Infantry Corps for the protection of the country[1] and later in 1773, in charge of the jungleterry country. As under the Muhammadan administration the *Ghatwali* system did not work on well and made confusion worse confounded. Jagarnath Singh of Lachmipur, the Chief Ghatwal, abetted by Bisu Singh, Ghatwal of Katwara, and Prasad Singh and Ummed Singh, Ghatwals of Kharwar prevented the Collector, Barton from collecting his rents and excited the farmers and the zamindars to withhold their rent as well. In 1777 and 1778 in spite of Captain Browne's vigilance the raids of the hillmen continued and in 1779 the two zamindars of Mandar, who were loyal to the British, were put to death by Rup Narain Deo, the successor of Jagarnath. On an attempt being made to arrest Rup Narain, he fled to the jungles of Bhirbhum for refuge. Subsequently, he was pardoned and restored to his zamindary in February, 1783. Again there ensured a period of dispute between Lachmipur and Kharagpur, and of insubordination on the part of the former ending with a grant of pardon to him and on the recommendation of the Sadar Diwani Adalat a separation of Lachmipur from Kharagpur.

Appointment of Captain Browne.

Rup Narain Deo, Ghatwal of Lachmipur.

The subjugation of the hill chiefs and rule over them became an all assuming thought with Cleveland. He had thoroughly understood the vital issues that were at stake. The plan for the pacification of the hillmen, said to have been first suggested by Captain Browne in 1778, was now adopted by him. In agreement with the principles of justice and humanity a state of warfare was avoided; the policy of considering the hillmen as enemies and treating them as such was abandoned. This measure produced the desired object and lent a new colour to the situation. Cleveland occasionally left his headquarters and made tour through the

1. Warren Hastings in his letter, dated the 26th September 1773 to J. Barton, Collector of Bhagalpur (Revenue letters received, Bhagalpur Collectorate Record Room) states that "you (i.e. Barton) are to consider him (Browne) as no longer under your authority, but if at any time you should require the assistance of his corps you will be pleased to acquaint him therewith and he has my orders to comply with your application".

hills and part of the jungleterry to have an interview with as many of the hill chiefs as possible and to give them feasts and presents on the part of Government. Further with a view to securing to the hill chiefs means of subsistence the want of which obliged them to commit improper and inhuman act, measures were adopted to employing a number of them in the services of Government. A corps of Hill Rangers consisting originally of 1 300 men was established. For many years they were armed with their country weapons, the bow and arrow. It is an instance of Cleveland's sound judgment, that he named for their first native commandant, a chief named Jourah. After some years the men were armed with muskets instead of bows and were in all respects on the same footing with other native requirements. Later, their number was reduced from 1,300 to 700 of whom 200 were not genuine mountaineers, but Hindus from the plain. Moreover, allowances were paid to all the hill chiefs and a court consisting of the officers of the corps of Hill Archers for tying the delinquents was set up. The last method not only had the desired effect in inflicting proper punishment on the refractory but gave universal satisfaction to the chiefs and the inhabitants of the hills in general. As a result the people who were so long considered as a perpetual dread to the inhabitants of the low country, *quitted* their former modes of life and became civilised. The jungleterry was converted into a colony with a busy life throbbing all round. Cleveland had become almost a legend to the hill tribes. He is commemorated at Bhagalpur by a temple like structure opposite the Circuit House and a tablet in the compound of the house known as *Tilakothi*.

As an additional precaution against occasional raids in which cattle were stolen and murders committed, Cleveland adopted a plan, first suggested by Captain Browne in 1778 of settling down invalid soldiers of the company on the waste lands between the hill country and Bhagalpur. Thus healthy spots of ground within the district were selected, and the quantity of land given to each of the officers and sepoys varied according to their position and status. At first settlements were made on the south of the Ganga, then extended to the north and the west But for the difficulty of obtaining suitable lands and the inability of the invalid soldiers to work as a husbandman, this jagir system was discontinued in 1821.

THE EARLY EUROPEANS IN BHAGALPUR

From a brochure "The Early Europeans in Bhagalpur" by Dr. K.K. Bose, Ph. D., read at the fifteenth sessions of the Indian Historical Records Commission in 1938, it will appear that quite a large number of European officials as well as non-officials had settled down in the town and district of Bhagalpur in the last quarter of the eighteenth and the first half of the

nineteenth century. Almost with the introduction of the new administrative system in 1779 when an European Supervisor was appointed for Bhagalpur with headquarters at Rajmahal, a number of Europeans started settling in the district both in public and private capacities. The official records and the Christian cemeteries at Bhagalpur yield a good deal of information on the subject.

There was also a regular succession of European indigo planters at Bhagalpur who later on either sold out or became gentlemen farmers or Zamindars. One of them the Grant family, was one of the largest Zamindars in the division. Dr. K.K. Bose has another paper "An Account of the Indigo Planters at Bhagalpur" read at the fourteenth sessions of the Indian Historical Records Commission in 1937.

The cemeteries commemorate quite a few of them who have had their contributions to the civic and cultural life of the district. Several of them were associated with the Invalid Establishment at Bhagalpur which comprised a colony of invalidated Government pensioners, mostly from the military. Some of the graves are of administrators, doctors and professional men. One of them Dr. Glass died at Bhagalpur in August, 1822. The inscription mentions that he was looked up to by the Indians as their common father. Dr. Glass was the surgeon of Bhagalpur. Among the graves of the administrators mention may be made of E. F. Lautor, officiating Collector (died October, 1845), Captain Ratton (died November, 1800), Skinner of Bengal Civil Service (died February, 1863), etc. Particular mention has to be made of Augustus Cleveland, Collector of Bhagalpur, 1775—1784. He had brought about the pacification of the lawless and turbulent wild tribes of the jungleterry of Rajmahal.

Another remarkable fact is that some of the early Europeans including Government officials acquired extensive landed property in Bhagalpur district. Some of them are noted below and it may be an interesting research if their privately acquired lands were the nucleii of indigo plantation:—

(1) Antonio L. Pero .. .. An Italian, held 5 bighas of land at Bhagalpur, 1811.

(2) Chalmer, R.W.A. .. .. Held 5 bighas of land with a house and garden at Bhagalpur (date of authority January, 1795.)

(3) Dickison, George .. .. Held at Bhagalpur 281 bighas of land with a house, garden and office, 1803.

(4) Garner, Capt. I .. .. Held 60 bighas of land with house and garden at Bhagalpur, 1814.

(5) Harrington, J. .. .. Held 50 bighas of land at Bhagalpur.

(6) Hay, John .. .. Held lands at Bhagalpur and Colgong, a portion of his land at Colgong was occupied by a barren hill on the summit of which a small house was erected. It was held in the name of J. Grant who made it over to Hay.

(7) Hunter, John .. .. Purchased from C. L. Trower 30 bighas of land at Bhagalpur.

(8) Hutchinson, Lieut. Col. John .. Held 60 bighas of land at Bhagalpur and 7 bighas at Colgong, 1803.

(9) Johnson, A. .. .. Held about 49 bighas of land with house and garden at Bhagalpur (date of authority, February, 1793 and October, 1813).

(10) Littlejohn, Major P. .. Held 60 bighas of land at Bhagalpur with house and garden, 1816.

(11) Lutterloh, H.E. .. .. Held 50 bighas of land at Bhagalpur with bungalow which he purchased from late Registrar Smith, 1795.

(12) Maling, C.S. .. .. Held 50 bighas of land at Bhagalpur, 1803.

(13) Marshall, Major W.H. .. Held land with house and garden at Bhagalpur, 1818.

(14) Mathews, Major .. .. Held land with house and garden at Bhagalpur, 1818.

(15) Nisbet, R.P. .. .. Held 59 bihas of land with house and garden at Bhagalpur, 1828.

(16) Sanford, John .. .. Held land with house and garden at Bhagalpur, 1814.

(17) Shaw, Capt. Thomas .. Held 14 bighas and 7 cottah of land at Bhagalpur, 1802

(18) Shaw, W. . .. Held 60 bighas of land with house and garden at Bhagalpur, 1802—1827.

(19) Smolt, A. . .. Held 41 bighas of land at Bhagalpur with house and garden, 1814.

(20) Spottiswood, Capt. Robbert . Held 10 bighas of land at Bhagalpur, 1800.

(21) Steer, W. .. .. Owned 35 bighas of land at Bhagalpur, 1818.

(22) Trower, C.L. .. .. Held 39 bighas of land at Bhagalpur, 1803.

(23) Turner, J.L. . . Held lands at Colgong with house and garden, 1825 ; also 18 bighas at Bhagalpur, 1822.

(24) Ward, J.P. .. .. Held 35 bighas of land with house and garden at Bhagalpur.

(25) Whittle, James .. .. Purchased from Trombelle (no 381), 50 bighas of land at Bhagalpur.

Apparently, the good climate and position of Bhagalpur were an attraction to the early Europeans. Some of them carried on trade and commerce or followed other professions while others became gentlemen-farmers and ultimately Zamindars. Some of the

administrators had settled down in Bhagalpur or had acquired properties. A Commissioner referred to elsewhere acquired an extensive area and built a church and handed over the properties including the church to the Calcutta Diocese when he left for home.

The European planters and gentlemen-farmers showed better methods of cultivation and the good of consolidation of holdings. They brought in a number of plants and trees and encouraged the cultivation of peas, potatoes and most of the winter vegetables. They took interest in dogs, horses and livestock and poultry. In Bhagalpur some of them grew excellent oats and experimented on the cultivation of sugarcanes and poppy.

General Administration

The first Collectorship of Bhagalpur[1] established in 1774 for purposes of general administration included the following offices, *viz.*, the Collector's the Diwan's, the Serishtadar's, the treasury, the Munshy's, the Vakil's and the Nazir's. The Collector's office included one Collector with a salary of sicca Rs. 157-8-0 per month, one Assistant on Rs. 48, besides the Collector's writers and the public servants; the Diwan's office was composed of a Diwan, who received as salary Rs 200 per month and a Naib on Rs. 50, the Serishtadar's office included one Serishtadar on Rs. 40 and four Muharrirs on Rs 15 each, the treasury office included a Khazanchi or Tahsildar on Rs. 30, 2 Muharrirs on Rs. 15 each. and one Poddar on Rs. 5 only: the Munshi's office included 2 Persian Munshis, receiving Rs. 50 and 25 and one Bengali Munshi receiving Rs. 25. The Vakil's office included two Vakils, one of whom attended the Khalsa cutcherry at Calcutta for the business of Bhagalpur and Rajmahal on a salary of Rs. 70 per month, and the other receiving Rs. 30, the Nazir's office included one Nazir on Rs. 15 besides the peons, daftaries, etc.

Collectorship of Bhagalpur.

The criminal court included the Qazi of the district on Rs. 100, one Mufti on Rs. 50, 2 Moulvies on Rs. 50. and 30, one Naib-Qazi on Rs. 20 and one Naib Mufti on Rs. 20.

Criminal Court at Bhagalpur.

In addition to the criminal court at Bhagalpur there was another such court at Rajmahal. with one Naib-Qazi and one Naib-Mufti on Rs. 20, 2 Persian writers on Rs. 20 each and 5 peons, etc.

At Rajmahal.

[1] Extract of the proceedings of the Governor-General and Council of Revenue Fort William, dated 7th October 1774 preserved in the bound volumes of the Revenue letters received in Collector's Record Room, Bhagalpur.

The annual expenses incurred for the maintenance of the foregoing offices and spent on other items amounted to Rs. 27,847-3-0 per annum. These items of expenditure are given below:—

Items of expenses incurred in maintaining the establishment.	Rs.	a.	p.
Establishment of the cutcherry officers and servants	14,097	3	0
Establishment of the contingent charges	720	0	0
Establishment of the Provincial courts of adalat	5,280	0	0
1 Kotwal, with 41 pykes, night watcher, etc.	972	0	0
Dawk charges, including 20 burkundazes	1,328	0	0
Repairs of bungalows for accommodation of travellers on the high road leading to Patna.	700	0	0
Charges of ammunition and carriages	300	0	0
Charges remittance estimated on sicca	2,00,000 500	0 0	0 0
Road charges to the Collector for going and coming between his district and Rajmahal.	2,000	0	0
Maintenance of public prisoners	600	0	0
Surgeon's allowance	1,260	0	0
Allowance to the Qazi	90	0	0

Warren Hastings while marching against Chait Singh of Benares came to Bhagalpur on 16th July, 1780 and having passed here a week left for Monghyr on 23rd July. During his stay at the place he was a guest of Augustus Cleveland, the Collector of Bhagalpur. Hodges describes the situation of his house built on an elevated island, four miles across, with the Ganges on one side of it, and a nullah on the other. The country, he says was park-like with splendid isolated trees and sylvan glades. The house has been described as a large and beautiful building on the Italian model standing at the head of a lawn which sloped to the river and was planted with flowering shrubs. Close at hand was a padlock inhabited by different species of deer. We get a cursory view of the court buildings at Bhagalpur and Rajmahal from contemporary records. F. Hamilton (The Collector of Bhagalpur) in his letter, dated 23rd March, 1805 to C. Buller, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort William, states that the Court at Bhagalpur was held in the private buildings of Dickinson secured on rent of Rs. 200 per month; the general condition of the premises was very bad. The Cutcherry was held in a mosque situated at the foot of the hill on which stood the dwelling house. The house contained one or two dark rooms with an open verandah; the doors and windows were entirely out of repairs. The records were deposited in two or three small but very damp godowns situated under the shade of a great tree ; the treasury and stamp

papers were lodged in a godown adjoining the kitchen of the dwelling house. There was also another building in the park, directly opposite to the dwelling house, about a hundred yards distant, the high road running between them but in so ruinous a state, that it was dangerous to appropriate it to any use.

The building situated at Rajmahal originally consisted of a large mosque on which Cleveland made improvements and built a bungalow and other out-offices, which he converted into a cutcherry and temporary dwelling place. It was known as the "Singhes Dellaun". The cutcherry at Rajmahal remained distinct. Owing to the extent of the revenues, many records were archived there. This helped the Collector when he went there once in every year to settle the business of the Bengal portion of the district.

Demerits of the native pleaders of Bhagalpur.

An account of the demerits and nature of the Government native pleaders has been furnished by J. Fombelle, the Judge, of Bhagalpur in his letter dated 28th February, 1795[1]. The report includes the names of 14 pleaders, out of which seven were Muhammadans and the rest Hindus. Among the Muhammadan pleaders, one claimed to have studied the Headayas, Sherrah, etc., in the Madrasah at Burdwan and Bhagalpur, but on examination found to be unable to read them. Excepting one or two most of them never read any law book nor any Persian book and had served either as a naib-munshi or as a mullah or as a Amin before their appointment as pleaders. The Hindu pleaders like their Muhammadan counterpart, before their appointment as pleaders, had acted as *gomastah*, *Amin* and *Tehsildar*, and they had never read any book on Hindu law, nor could understand Persian well, nor explain the Persian regulations in Hindi.

During the early years of British rule in the district the prisoners were kept in an insecure state. There were only two jails at Bhagalpur, made entirely of mud with tiles. Of these two jails, the first had walls enclosing an area of 473 feet × 405 feet, and the second that was smaller in size, had an area of 225 ft. × 100 ft. The large jail meant for containing upwards of 400 prisoners consisted of two straw buildings, a guard room and a separate detached place with a large shed under which prisoners dressed their victuals. The thatched roof exposed the inmates to the inclemency of the weather. The surrounding wall of the jail compound was made of mud and the jail was insecure. Inside the jail there was only one well and no drain to carry off the filth and neither was there any separate place as a hospital for the sick. The small jail where some 250 prisoners could be accommodated consisted of one

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[1] Judicial letters received (Collector's Record-room), Bhagalpur.

large straw building, a guard room and a shed. Instead of being deprived of all those comforts of life which they had forfeited by their crimes, the prisoners were surrounded by their wives and children who were the constant companion of their confinement. They enjoyed a greater degree of ease and happiness than the lower class of inhabitants of the district. The place of confinement had more the appearance of a village than a jail. In addition to the aforesaid jails for the criminals, there was the "*Divani jail*" meant for confining the debtors and others in arrears of revenue to Government. This jail consisted of the remains of a few huts. But later, the condition of the jail improved.

Police.

J. Fombelle, the Collector of Bhagalpur, in his letter dated 31st July, 1799 to G.H. Barlow and others, members of a committee for investigating into the condition of the police, throughout the Company's Government gave an account of the police within his jurisdiction. Though gang robberies decreased in the eastern part, it increased, in spite of the efficiency of the police that contained respectable characters as "darogas", in the other parts of the district. The causes as operated to the increase of crime were: (1) the abolition of *Sayer*; previous to the abolition, the police of the country rested principally with the landholders. When the police establishments were instituted by Government thousands of people were deprived of their employment in the zamindary police. These unemployed, principally composed of the lower order of people preferred preying upon the community to learning new occupations, (2) the police establishments were too inadequate to protect the extensive tracts committed to their care. Each police thana contained a daroga, a jamadar and 10 to 20 *burkandazes* only; (3) Vagrants of all descriptions, having no other ostensible means of subsistence than by catching birds, snakes, etc. freely moved about in the country, and added to the number of crimes; (4) Bands of armed men from 5 to 20 upwards constantly parading the country on pretence of going to their homes or of seeking service were most dangerous to the community. (5) the insecure state of many parts of the great rivers and want of proper regulations for the ferries accounted for the increase of gang robberies ; (6) large number of prisoners confined under the orders of late Naib Nazim were for want of proof set at liberty by the Company's Government Among those who were set free many were hardened dacoits. They reverted to their former predatory habits; (7) under late Naib Nazim the severest examples were frequently made in cases of dacoity, and entire gangs were sentenced to suffer death. But the refined principles of justice were ill calculated for those who were a scourge to the peace loving inhabitants of the Company's territories, (8) the want of sufficient authority of the Magistrate was responsible for the increase of crime. When the prisoner was committed to take his trial,

six months or more elapsed when his trial began in the circuit court and then there was a chance that the prosecutor of witnesses were dead and were not to be found. The evil could be done away by vesting the Magistrates with greater authority and limiting it to lesser degrees of guilt.

Towns in the district.

Bishop Heber, who visited Bhagalpur in 1824, writes "Boglipoor is in a pretty situation and said to be one of the healthiest stations in India." Bhagalpur and Rajmahal were the two places in the district that can be properly called towns. The former was a miserable collection of huts extending over four miles of ground cut up and divided by fields, gardens, plantations and numerous roads. The whole place resembled an inhabited forest rather than a town.

Champanagar and Lachmiganj, two large contiguous towns, lying to the west of the old Karnagarh fort, formed a portion of the town of Bhagalpur. These towns were full of weavers, traders, and dyers and had large markets. The houses of Europeans were numerous, but most of them unoccupied. Some of them were large, and all scattered round the town in very fine and commanding situations. There were about 150 houses of brick, all in a very bad style, and none of them respectable in size. The town consisted of scattered market places newly built, and a few tolerable roads. The streets of Bhagalpur were repaired by the working convicts who under the orders of the Magistrate cleaned out particular places and cleared away jungles. The inhabitants were enjoined not to permit accumulation of filth near the houses. Precautions were taken to render as little offensive as possible the spots they resorted to in the mornings and evenings to obey the calls of nature. In Rajmahal, which was at a distance of 80 miles from the Suddar Station, the same measures could not be taken. but in both towns most of the natives of respectability kept the ground immediately round their houses tolerably clean.

The only tax that was collected was the chowkidari tax for the maintenance of night watch. It was collected by an officer called Bakshi according to the rates fixed upon every householder by the Panchayat. This tax varied in amount from Re. 1 to anna one per head per month. Each chowkidar got a salary of Rs. 3 and had to guard from 40 to 50 houses.

The great thoroughfare from the western provinces to Murshidabad and North-east skirted the banks of the Ganges and passed through the whole length of the district and through the town of Bhagalpur. Heber's book is a store-house of information.

On September 30, 1811 an attempt was made to collect House tax in Bhagalpur according to Regulation XV of 1810. On the appearance of the Tahsildars the people shut up their houses and shops. In the evening while F. Hamilton, the Collector of Bhagalpur, was driving out in his carriage, several thousands of inhabitants were standing on either side of the road. They poured forth complaints and clamorously declared their inability to pay the tax. Later on 21st October while carrying into execution the collection of the House tax, Hamilton was grossly assaulted in his carriage. Bricks, stones and every description of offensive missile were hurled at his head, and had he not effected his escape nothing on earth could have saved his life. Two days later, the Collector in concert with the Magistrate aided by a military force under command of Major Little John proceeded to the house of the principal defaulter and instigator of the disturbances. The house was forced upon and distress levied upon his property upon which a tender was made of the balance which was accepted.

Population.

In 1802 the Government is said to have ordered a *Khanah Shumari* or list of inhabitants to be prepared. Martin Montogomery, who visited the district in the thirties of the last century in a statistical table (Vol. II, Appendix A) gives an estimate of the population of the district at 2,019,900. The first enumeration of the population carried on scientific lines in 1872 gives the figures as 1,824,738. This number gradually increased in 1881, 1891, and 1901 to 1,966,158, 2,032,696 and 2,088,953 respectively. This matter has been discussed in details in the text on "People".

At Bhagalpur town the number of houses was 5,000 (Buchanan). From another statement made by the Magistrate of Bhagalpur relating to the number of houses in the towns and villages, we find that Rajmahal had 1,639 houses, next to it came Sultangunge with 1,189 houses, and next Amarpur and Colgong with 970 and 748 houses, respectively.

Villages.

J. Parry, the Magistrate of Bhagalpur in his letter dated 5th April 1816 to J. Shakespeare, the Superintendent of Police, Lower Provinces, Calcutta provides a list containing the number of villages in the 19 thana division in the district of Bhagalpur. In the list of honour the first five places were taken up by Tarapur with 858 villages, Luker Dewanee with 806 villages, Banka with 765 villages, Ratangunge with 642 villages and Gogree with 476 villages. The Rajmahal thana includes 289 and Bhagalpur Kotwali 133 villages

Population drinking.

Drinking was common, and great quantities of liquor were consumed in the cities, towns and villages. There were four kinds of intoxicating liquor manufactured in the district, viz., *Mowah*, a distillation

from the produce of a tree of the same name; *Phoola*, a single distilled spirit from *goor* or clayed sugar; *kundee*, a double distilled spirit from the same material : *Tauree* or *Toddy*. The hill people prepared amongst themselves in the hills, a distillation from grain, called *Patchwaye*. A manufacturer sold from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 worth of *Mowah* per month. Its greatest consumption was during the rains. The price of one bottle of *Mowah* was half anna. *Phool* sold at 2 annas per bottle and *Kundee* at 4 annas per bottle.

Slavery.

Slavery was prevalent. The male slaves were called *Nufurs* and the female, *Laundis*. There was scarcely any native of respectability who did not entertain one or more slaves; none were employed as confidential servants and the greater part of the men were employed in agriculture. Descendents of slaves continued in a state of slavery in the same family for several generations. But the institution was regulated as per rules framed by the Council of Revenue, Fort William on May 17, 1774. Those persons who forcibly detained or sold any man, woman or child as a slave without a deed attested in the usual manner by the Cazi of the place where the slave was purchased by the proprietor, or those who stole any children from their families or places of abode were punished by law. Further, no person was allowed to buy or sell a slave who was not such already by formal legal purchase, and any Cazi, who granted any deed after 1st July, 1774, was dismissed from his employment and the deed declared invalid. The right of the masters to the children of their slaves already their property were not legally taken away from them in the first generation, but that right could not be extended further.

Common beggars—magic and witchcraft.

The number of common beggars in the district as estimated by Buchanan, was about 4,000. This number included 15 enucles.

Superstitious belief in magic and witchcraft was common with the people. At Bhagalpur town about 25 children were supposed annually to perish from the malevolence of the witches of *Dains*. Chapman, the Collector of Bhagalpur in his letter dated June 15, 1785 to Macpherson, the Governor-General and Council of Revenue refers to an incident in which a poor old woman was put to death. It was believed that an old woman had destroyed a great number of children by magic, and that to stop her further devastation, ten petty chiefs in the neighbourhood had met and determined to put her to death, which in obedience to their orders was immediately done by a dependant of one of them. The Collector prevailed upon the chiefs and secured a promise from them to the effect that in the future they would refer all matters relating to magic and witchcraft to him for examination previous to their further action.

Sati.

The Record Room of the Commissioner and the Collector of Bhagalpur contain records relating to the cases of Sati held in the district. E. Pardy, the District Magistrate, gives an annual report of the number of Hindu women who burnt themselves on the funeral piles of their husband during the year 1815. The report in question mentions three cases that took place at Tarapur, Pealapur and Lokamanpur. At the first two places, the ages of women were nineteen and fifty respectively. The lady who burnt herself at Pealapur was a Brahmin, the Tarapur woman was a vegetable seller and the Lokamanpur woman was a Rajput. Two other cases occurred at Pealapur in 1817. In the case of one, it was a lady aged twenty-five, and of the other eighty-three. In 1822 another case occurred at Rajmahal. A. Chalmer, the Magistrate was present at the site and he tried to dissuade the widow from her purpose. The woman who was aged only twenty-six remained firm in her resolve and with an unparalleled coolness entered the burning pile. There was another such incident held on 23rd February 1830 and reported by R.N. Barlow, the Judge and Magistrate of Bagalpur. The incident occurred at the Barari Ghat in the town of Bhagalpur. The bundle of papers classified as Monghyr misel No. 91 preserved in the archives of the Divisional Commissioner, Bhagalpur, relate to the case of Sati, held in pergana Belliah, Monghyr on August 9, 1863. It was more a case of vested interest, than voluntary action marked by inhuman treatment.

The earliest famine in this district was the great calamity of 1770. It brought about impoverishment and ruination. In the next 15 years there were frequent drought and scarcity.

In the fifties of the last century two sorts of schools for the Santhals, the ordinary school and the Industrial school, were started. In the latter, various arts, such as tanning, shoe making, rope making, carpet making, weaving tussur silk and also methods of agriculture would be taught.

Later, this scheme of education was disapproved by the Court of Directors on the ground that it identified the Government in measures prosecuted by the Missionaries and so exposed the arrangement to the risk of perverted misconstruction. They, therefore, desired that in supersession of the previous arrangement, a scheme was to be prepared for affording the Santhals the means of education through the agency of Government Officers.

Later History.

In the Census of 1881, it came out that there were 42 males only per thousand who were learning and literate. In 1891 the figure was raised to 61 males and 1 female per thousand who were learning and literate. In 1901 the corresponding figures were 95 males and 2 females which was a considerable increase and gave a hopeful indication for the future.

College education in Bhagalpur is identified with the Tejnarain Jubilee College, that was established in 1887 by Babu Tejnarain Singh, a Local Zamindar. In 1890 it was raised to the status of a first grade College. Law classes were opened and later abandoned. They have been again started recently. There are besides High Schools, Middle Schools, Primary Schools, Training Schools for Teachers, Sanskrit *Tols* and Muhammedan *Maktabs*. The growth of education and educational institutions forms the text of a separate chapter.

The Santhal Insurrection

The story of the Santhal Insurrection is an important episode in the early history of the Bhagalpur district as the Santhal area was then included within Bhagalpur. Synchronizing with the creation of a new administrative division, called the Santha Parganas, it marked the end of one epoch and the beginning of another. The area of land designated as Damin-i-koh was in the year 1823 declared to be the property of Government, and all cultivable lands were for sometime reserved for the native mountaineer settlers. The Santhals soon made their appearance from the neighbouring countries and effected a settlement in the Damin-i-koh. In 1830 the Government gave their sanction to the settlement of the Santhals, and issued orders protecting them against undue exaction by the Government grantees of the hill lands. In 1832 this tract of the country was divided between the districts of Bhagalpur, Murshidabad and Birbhum. In November, 1836 the management of the Revenue administration devolved on an officer who was placed under the direct orders of the Collector of Bhagalpur. In matters of general management of a Superintendent he was subordinate to the Commissioner of Bhagalpur, and in criminal matters under the Magistrate of Bhagalpur. The number of Santhal villages increased with astonishing rapidity and with it the Government revenue. But this increase in revenue was not due to any over-assessment but entirely to increased cultivation. There were cases, however, of illegal cesses levied by Government underlings which added to the payment made by the settlers and against these illegal exactions the people had no protection.

Causes of the Insurrection.

The origin of the Santhal insurrection is not to be traced absolutely to agrarian but more to the complicated legal system prevalent in the country, to the unmitigated dishonesty and extortion on the part of the money-lenders, and to the rapacity and various acts of oppression of the police and Civil Court underlings. In addition, the acts of omission and commission on the part of the railway offiials and their subordinates created

a sense of indignation in the minds of the Santhals. Thus the movement so originated drew to it all those whose partiotism was stimulated by the recollection of their suffering at the hands of the usurpers and the police; but the fundamental idea at work and that which was attempted to be put in practice was the establishment of a Santhal realm and kingdom. The Santhals dreamt of their patriarchal arcadia of ancient days when they had no overlords, and they were themselves masters of the Gangetic valley. Their yearning for independence was, therefore, a supervening cause of the insurrection.

A petition was presented to the Commissioner of Bhagalpur division ten months before the insurrection broke out. It set forth their grievances and reminded the Commissioner repeated and ineffectual applications they had made for redress. The Commissioner's order on this petition was dated 19th April, 1855, or nearly 8 months after the date of its presentation. He then sent it for suitable orders to the Collector, the Collector sent it to the Magistrate, and the Magistrate was making preparations for an enquiry that was cut short by the announcement that the Santhals were in open rebellion. It, therefore, seems probable that the insurrection might not have occurred had those complaints been properly investigated and had vigorous and prompt action been taken to redress the wrongs of the disaffected Santhals. The administrator's delay could not have had a worse effect.

So it happened at length after years of patient endurance that the final outbreak came in the months of May and June, 1854. Six dacoities were committed by the Santhals in the houses of the money-lenders residing in the *Damin*. These dacoities were not the unaided work of a mere gang, but were undoubtedly committed with the counsel, consent or connivance of the Santhal population generally.

Thus starting with the desire to revenge themselves on the money-lenders, the Santhals found themselves arrayed in arms against the British Government. It was a vast assembly that collected near Barhait—the only place of any size in the Damin-i-koh. Practically the whole fighting population answered the summons, and the gathering was augmented by many from beyond towards Birbhum whose grievances were no less great. The insurrection was commenced by a person who called himself the Thakoor or Soubah. The other noted leaders were Sidu and Kanoo, Chand and Bhairab. They declared that a *parwana* had fallen from heaven giving them permission to take possession of the country, that the rule of the Company was at an end and the reign of their Soubah had begun. At first they contented themselves with simple pillage, but before long they began to massacre the peaceful inhabitants, men, women, and children and burn the

villages. The insurgents were armed with bows and poisoned arrows, axes, swords and a few guns only. The *dawk* of 8th July 1855 conveyed intelligence about the assemblage of the Santhals for seizing the country. Some four days after, the police Daroga and nine of his men, who went to quell the insurrection were killed. The rebellion, thus, commenced with bloodshed and spread rapidly with many frightful atrocities. All the old barbarian instincts, long suppressed, seem to have returned, and their wild passions once let loose. There was no restraint until the revolt was finally crushed out by the sheer weight of superior military organization and force.

There were not at the time 1,200 troops within 80 miles of the rebels. The troops were quickly mobilized from Dinapur and Calcutta and placed under the command of Brigadier General Lloyd. The Hill Rangers of Bhagalpur were marched to Colgong. For a time the Santhals held possession of the country till they were forced to make retreat by the Hill Rangers that was reinforced by European troops and native infantry. The country round Bhagalpur was cleared of the insurgents, who were driven southwards. The Birbhum side remained in a disturbed condition for a much longer time. The insurgents were also active on the Murshidabad border. During the rainy season, the rebels took refuge in the forests, but in September they resumed activities in parts of Birbhum and Bhagalpur. On December 31, 1855 the insurrection was officially declared to have been entirely suppressed. The Santhals, however, did not shed their blood in vain. Their descendants reaped the fruits of their sacrifices. The rebellion was followed by a full enquiry into the grievances of the people and by the passing of Act XXXVIII of 1855 which removed from the operation of the general laws and regulations the district called the Damin-i-koh and other districts inhabited principally by the Santhals.*

The first struggle for independence.

The Santhal rebellion was followed by the first struggle for national independence, generally miscalled the Sepoy Mutiny. Bhagalpur was with its territories on both sides of the Ganga and with a garrison of 5th Irregulars at the station and of the 32nd Native Infantry at Baunsi entirely composed of Indian sepoys, the district caused anxiety to the Government officials.

Murder of Sir N. Leslie.

The Supreme Government favoured disbanding the 5th Irregulars at Bhagalpur, but the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur division prevented this step being taken. For maintaining peace and order it was, however, decided to place a body of European

*The history of the Santhal Parganas will be covered in the *District Gazetteer* of Santhal Parganas in details. It may be mentioned here that although Act XXXVIII mentions the district of Damin-i-koh, there has not been found reference of any such district in the archives (P. C. R. C.).

troops composed of 100 men of His Majesty's 5th Fusiliers at Bhagalpur, and to send a body of 50 men of the regiment to Monghyr.

Insurrection of 5th Irregular Cavalry.

From all sides, from Patna and Jalpaiguri, from Chittagong and Dacca, came wild rumours of mutiny that shook the already wavering loyalty of the local troops. On August 14, the 5th Irregulars at Bhagalpur, carried away by the news of their comrades' revolt at Patna, finally broke out into open revolt, and marching off to Rohini joined the deatchment of their regiment stationed there. The united force next levied forced contribution of Rs. 12,000 from the local inhabitants and marched on to Baunsi, the headquarters of the 32nd Native Infantry. But here they had been anticipated. A local zamindar, learning their designs, had hurriedly sent a messenger to give warning of their approach. So fast, however, did the mutineers travel that the messenger only reached his destination half an hour ahead of them. But that time was sufficient to enable Col. Burney, who was in command of the regiment, to undertake some hasty measures of defence, and his men proving loyal, the rebel sepoys were forced to march on continuing south-west towards Deoghar. Here too, however, the officials had been warned. Lt. Cooper, who was in command of a detachment of the 32nd Native Infantry quartered there, held them in check as the mutineers attacked. The latter being thus foiled in their attempt for the second time, marched off westward to join the Patna mutineers; they made no attempt to reach the other detachment of their regiment at Dumka. Had the main body of the 5th Irregulars advanced to Dumka, the detachment stationed there would, in all probability, have thrown in their lot with them.

The division remained comparatively tranquil for sometime, excepting some plundering by the escaped convicts from Gaya; on the Purnea side some uneasiness was felt from the proximity of the 73rd Native Infantry at Jalpaiguri.

Revolt of 32nd Native Infantry.

During all this time the 32nd Native Infantry had remained faithful, resisting the repeated efforts of the 5th Irregulars to draw it into revolt. But suddenly on October 9, seized by one of those inexplicable impulses that swept through all ranks of the native troops in 1857, the 32nd Native Infantry broke into open mutiny. Lt. Cooper in command who enjoyed sincere attachment of his men, Lt. Rannie of the same regiment, in no way favourite with his people, and Ronald, the Assistant Commissioner, who was a stranger to the sepoys, were spending the evening together in the officers' quarters absolutely unsuspicious

of the impending danger. Taken by surprise they were hemmed in, the Sepoys blocked every entrance. They called upon Rannie by name to come out and escape untouched. Then, rushing in, they brutally murdered Cooper and Ronald. Why they spared Lt. Rannie, for whom they had no particular affection and murdered Cooper, to whom they were sincerely devoted and the civilian against whom they had no grievance must remain one of the many unsolved mysteries that fills the annals of the movement.

The headquarters of the 32nd Native Infantry had, in the meantime, marched from Baunsi to Raniganj, and notwithstanding attempts made to tamper with them during the march, on arriving at the latter place they quitely, and of their own accord laid down their arms.

A second detachment of the Corps mutinied at Rampur Hat. On reaching the Bhagalpur division, they followed in the footsteps of the first detachment by surrendering their arms.

Early in November, Capt. Burbank with 100 sailors was despatched to Purnea to meet the situation arising out of an outbreak at Jalpaiguri.

Towards the end of November, the 11th Irregular Cavalry stationed at Jalpaiguri mutinied and went off in the direction of Purnea. Mr. Yule, the Commissioner of Bhagalpur division, summoned 50 men of His Majesty's 5th Fusiliers from Monghyr and led them to the Purnea side. There he joined Burbank and moved to Kissenganj. Soon after came across the two detachments of the 11th Irregular Cavalry and put them to rout with loss of men on the enemy's side. Commissioner Yule had marched by the Ganga-Darjeeling road and was joined by most of the European and Anglo-Indian Planters. There was a fight at Lalbalu near Purnea, details of which will be found in the *District Gazetteer* of Purnea.

Worthwhile to mention some useful services were rendered to the company by some of the zamindars of the division, such as Tilanand Singh of Banaili and his co-sharer, who was a minor and few Muhammadan zamindars. Some European settlers were liberal in supplies and gave assistance with utmost readiness.

Bhagalpur from 1850 to 1860

A picture of Bhagalpur district could be drawn by study of the Old English Correspondence Volumes for this decade which were available in Bhagalpur Collectorate Record Room. These volumes have neither index nor are these correspondence volumes for each of the years of the decade.

Crime.—The character of the administration being more or less that of a Police State much importance was given to crimes. We have got statistics for crimes in Bhagalpur district from some of these volumes for years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863 and 1864. The statistics are given in the Appendix.

The statistics will show that the incidence of offences against property without violence was quite high. The incidence of offences which have been grouped together under miscellaneous is also high but it cannot be ascertained as to what type of offences they refer to.

Police Thanas.—With the extension of British Administration it came to be realised that there must be more decentralised points of administration. The main type of administrative units running the machinery was the police thanas. Even as late as 1850 the construction of new thanas had been undertaken. From letter no. 157 from the Magistrate of Bhagalpur Foujdary Adawlut, dated 3rd April, 1850 to the Superintendent of Police, Lower Provinces available in Bhagalpur Old Correspondence Volume for 1850, it appears that the construction of new thanas at Modhipura and Boodhawa was sanctioned.

Zamindars.—Another formidable unit was the class of zamindars who wielded considerable influence in the mofussil. Unfortunately the standard of morality among the zamindars and other rich men did not seem to be very high. Letter no. 484, from the Magistrate, Foujdary Adawlut, Bhagalpur, dated 21st October, 1850, to the Superintendent of Police, Lower Provinces available in the Old Correspondence Volume for Bhagalpur, 1850 if correct mentions that there was an old custom in these parts for the female slaves of rich men to be nominally married to one of the male servants of their master and that the female slaves would nominally await her master's pleasures. The zamindars used to harbour criminals and get crimes committed and they were punished severely if detected. European planters of the district were also punished if they were found guilty of any offences.

Education.—By 1861 there was only one Anglo-Vernacular School at the Sadar Station besides one Government School. There were a few other Government Vernacular Schools which were not well attended. The number of native *Pathshalas* was insignificant and the attendance was paltry.

Hospital.—There was a charitable hospital which was well maintained. From correspondence in Volume no. 456 in 1860 it appears that the charitable dispensary was supported partly by Government and partly by subscription and donation. It had at

its fund Government promissory notes for Rs. 6,000. The number of outdoor patients treated in the dispensary during the year totalled 1 891 and that of indoor patients 44 who had been cured. The medical duties of the institution were conducted by the Civil Assistant and the Sub-Assistant Surgeons. The incidence of public health "was not so very bad" though cholera and small-pox had carried off many lives.

Roads.—A good deal of attention was paid to roads and communications, the importance of which had been all the more appreciated during the insurrections of 1857. In 1860 the main road passing from east to west through Bhagalpur Station was re-metalled with *kankar* and several other roads of the town were put in order in 1859. The roads from Bhagalpur to Colgong on the east and to Ghorghat on the west were in a bad state of repair and were taken up for improvement. The road to Bousee was under construction under Capt. Forbes who was the Executive Engineer. The importance of Bousee road lay in the fact that it connected Bhagalpur, the divisional headquarters with the newly-created district of Santhal Parganas. It has to be remembered that the Santhal Parganas was created as a district after the Santhal insurrection of 1855 as it was thought that the Santhals needed a separate administrative unit for this which will require a special sympathetic treatment. In the Santhal insurrection of 1855 and in the following years when the Santhals had to be put down, it was well realised that the roads were very important for military movement and without a good set of roads it would have been extremely difficult to run an efficient administration. From a letter kept in volume no. 456 of 1860 it was mentioned that the Divisional Engineer Mr. Clarksaw was engaged in constructing Madhepurah road and the railway feeder works.

Military Supply.—One of the usual tasks of the Collector of Bhagalpur was to procure supplies, carts, bullocks and boats required for the movement of the military. Owing to the Santhal insurrection this part of the Bhagalpur Collector's work became very heavy from July, 1855 to early part of February, 1856. It became heavier when 1857 insurrections broke out. The Collector who was given a tall order to procure a large number of elephants in 1857 wrote to the Commissioner that there would be difficulty in obtaining the elephants unless he was authorised to pay higher rates of hire monthly. *Choudhuris* or *Sardars* were appointed to procure carriages, bullocks etc., for military movement. As late as 1857 the Collector of Bhagalpur reported that the hitherto working arrangement of procuring carriages for troops through an authorised *Choudhuri* was falling into disuse as nobody was willing

to enter into such arrangements. There are a number of letters in volume no. 58 for 1857 which make out that the 32nd Regiment Native Infantry was located at Bausee in Bhagalpur division for some time. There are several letters referring to the arrangements for carts, bullocks and foodstuff to the Company. At times there were difficulties in finding the carts, bullocks and *palki* bearers particularly in cultivation season. The allergy of the people in not supplying the bullocks, carts and *palkis* probably lay in the fact that adequate compensation was not paid. The Collector mentioned that when it was known that carts were likely to be required for the use of troops, the bullocks used to be driven into the fields and carts taken to pieces by the people. The Collector had suggested that until some system of registration was not enforced, it would be always a matter of difficulty to comply with the immediate indent of officers commanding regiments for supply of carriages. Similar difficulty was also felt for procuring boats. The Collector repeatedly pointed out to the Commissioner that as there was no definite knowing when the boats would be released, the people did not like to loan boats. Cultivation also considerably suffered for want of bullocks and carts as they were engaged by the military for a pretty long time. In letter no. 18, dated the 4th February, 1857 preserved in volume no. 58 we find that the Collector Lushington reported to the Commissioner that it was only fair that for the 32nd Regiment Native Infantry at Bausee carts should be procured from the adjoining districts of Santhals. Bausee was on the verge of Santhal district and this request was considered to be natural. Lushington further mentioned that he had a good many petitions from opium cultivators declaring that they had suffered very badly from seizure of the carriages for the 56th Regiment Native Infantry. One of the main duties of Collector, Bhagalpur in this decade appears to have been to keep the Gola at Bausee well supplied for the Regiment. Owing to the bad condition of the road, supply was a problem and the Collector complained in 1857 that unless the road from Bhagalpur cantonment was kept in repairs. regular supply was difficult. The zamindars used to be regularly commissioned to give their quota of supply and from letter no. 53 from the Collector to the Commissioner, dated the 1st April, 1857 it appears that the zamindars used to be fined Rs. 100 or more if they neglected in providing supplies. The Collector in his letter no. 105, dated the 10th June, 1857 had pointed out that the cartmen should be well treated and sufficiently paid and not taken to unreasonable distances from their houses and all this depends on the military officers. It appears that in 1857 there was a Bill in the Legislative Council for amending the law for providing carriages and supplies for troops marching but this Bill was not generally supported by the Collector. The price of elephants varied from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 and the Collector had to buy elephants occasionally.

Food Prices.—The exigency of 1857 insurrections brought the military in active numbers to Bhagalpur town. There was a hospital attached to the military station and the Collector had to make supplies of foodstuff to the military hospital. It is extremely interesting to find in letter no. 335 from the Collector of Bhagalpur to the Superintending Surgeon giving the prices of a few articles :—

> Bread at 10 per rupee, fowl at 8 per rupee, butter at 4 srs. per rupee. In letter no. 217, dated the 9th June, 1856 the Collector had reported to the Officer commanding the 56th Regiment at Bhagalpur the prices of wheat to be 15 srs. per rupee, *arhar* dal at 12 srs. per rupee, table rice at 15 srs. per rupee and *masur* dal at 10 srs. per rupee, sugar at 2 srs. 8 ch. per rupee, milk at 20 srs. per rupee, green tea at 4 rupees per sr., rice at 13 srs. per rupee and firewood at 5 mds. per rupee.

It will be interesting to quote other information regarding the prices of commodities. In letter no. 119, dated 7th July, 1857 the Collector reported to the Commissioner the price list of certain articles for supply to the military. They were as follows :—

	Md.	sr.	ch.		Rs.	a.	p.
Wheat	513	8	13	for	4,372	13	2
Kalaya	77	5	0	„	134	1	9
Gram	122	4	0	„	219	3	5
Table rice	12	32	0	„	36	9	1
Salt	50	0	0	„	237	8	0
Sugar	1	0	0	„	5	0	0
Ghee	13	37	0	„	318	10	10
Tobacco	0	16	0	„	28	15	1

Treasury.—A number of letters are found in volume no. 58 indicating that in 1857 the idea of a centralised treasury was considered a necessity. In his letter no. 159, dated the 27th August, 1857 the Collector discussed the suggestion of the Board of Revenue on the subject of consolidation of the treasuries. The Collector was of the opinion that the consolidation of the treasuries could also be done at such places where European troops would be in the vicinity and that such places were Dinapore, Hazaribagh, Murshidabad, Calcutta and Dacca. It is mentioned in the letter "recent events had demonstrated that it is only our European troops that we can trust implicitly and that whatever is worth guarding must be entrusted to their care."

The Collector suggested that there should be a Central Treasury at Patna or Dinapore to cover the districts of Patna, Shahabad,

Saran, Tirhut, Bihar, Monghyr and Bhagalpur with land revenue of Rs. 11,12,869 (Patna), Rs. 14,15,666 (Shahabad), Rs. 18,01,982 (Saran), Rs. 16,65,381 (Tirhut), Rs. 15,44,604 (Bihar), Rs. 7,73,211 (Monghyr) and Rs. 6,30,990 (Bhagalpur).

It was further suggested that should Rajmahal become a station for troops the centre of a circle should be transferred to that circle. He also suggested Hazaribagh circle for the district of S. E. Frontier Agency with land revenue of Rs. 3,09,756 and suggested that the Central Treasury should be at Chotanagpur or Hazaribagh, entirely dependent on local troops.

Bhagalpur Railway Station.—It is extremely interesting to find letters in volume no. 58 for 1857 regarding the acquisition of lands for the railway station in the town of Bhagalpur. One such letter no. 139 from the Collector to the Senior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William, dated the 22nd October, 1857 giving the specifications of the land required in the town of Bhagalpur for a railway station.

Postal Communication.—In this decade the postal communication was also extending. Letter no. 6, dated the 7th January, 1858 from the Collector to the Postmaster-General of Bengal, Calcutta mentions that there was delay in the receipt of the Calcutta Dak. It mentions that the only Dak received at Bausi, 33 miles distant from Bhagalpur at 4 P.M. on the previous day was delivered the next day at 5.30 P.M. and this gives a rate of somewhat less than 1½ mile per hour. The Deputy Postmaster-General, Bhagalpur informed the Collector that this lies under the Birbhoom Post Office and in no way subject to his control and that by the Rajmahal route the Calcutta mail might be received during the dry season at least 12 hours earlier without any expense for additional runners. The Collector suggested that Calcutta mail be sent *via* Rajmahal from October to June and *via* Sooree from July to September when the road between Rajmahal and Muhadeva was liable to inundation.

Livestock.—The importance of good breed of livestock was well realised. Localities suitable for breeding sheep and horn cattle were selected where there was a plenty of grass and water. In Phulsam Pargana sheep were bred while Burhait was a very favourable place for breeding horn cattle.

Cash Crops.—Bhagalpur district was particularly mentioned in letter no. 228, dated the 4th September, 1857 by the Collector of Bhagalpur to the Commissioner regarding the cultivation of cotton, indigo, and jute. In this letter it was mentioned that in 1857 about 150 acres was under cotton cultivation and production was valued at 18,000 in rupees. About 7,000 acres was put under

sugar cultivation in 1857 and the value of produce in rupee was 21,00,000. The same letter mentions the area under indigo cultivation to be 53,000 acres and the value of indigo in rupee was 4,77,000. Jute claimed 1,400 acres of land and the value of produce in rupees was 29,400. Tea and mulberry were not cultivated at all in Bhagalpur district.

The history of the district of Bhagalpur for the later decades of the 19th century is practically an administrative history. The administrative machinery was found to be weak in 1857 movement and every attempt was made to make the machinery stronger. The number of Police thanas was increased and the necessity for improving the roads was realised in order to accelerate the movement of the Police and Military during the period of troubles. Much more attention was paid to the Police administration and a real Police State was allowed to emerge out of the troubles and Bhagalpur district was no exception. Very little attention was paid to the economic welfare of the district and many of the indigenous industries were allowed to decline. European planters were inducted and administration was out to help the European planters in every possible way. It is not, however, that the European planters did not do any good to the country side. They improved the roads, showed the benefit of consolidated holdings, better cultivation and improved animal husbandry. When indigo plantations declined most of these planters became gentlemen-farmers or zamindars. Grant's Estate was one of the largest and well-run zamindari although it is a fact that there were frequent agrarian disputes in Grant's Estate. The European planters and zamindars had penetrated into the interior of the district and ran well-run zamindaris and thereby helped the other cultivators. Christian missionaries had also gone into the remote corner of the district and had opened branches of their mission.

During the Swadeshi Movement in the first decade of the 20th century, Bhagalpur was not quite immune. The contact of Bhagalpur with Calcutta was intimate and Calcutta papers had a good circulation in the district.

The young men of Bhagalpur took keen interest in the Swadeshi movement and there was a boycott of British goods particularly cloth.

Some of the papers published in Bihar had also advocated *Swadeshi*. A Hindi Weekly, *Bihar Bandhu*, published from Patna was a great supporter of the Swadeshi Movement and this paper had a good circulation in Bhagalpur. Throughout the Swadeshi agitation days *Bihar Bandhu* advocated that Swadeshi vow alone could lead the country to prosperity. *Bihar Bandhu* had repeatedly written that the only way of removing the unrest was by the withdrawal of the repressive policy.

On a reference to the report on Native Papers in Bengal volume April-June, 1908 kept in the Archives of the Historical Division in Writers Building, Calcutta it is found that Mr. Lyall, District Magistrate of Bhagalpur in 1908 followed an outstandingly repressive policy and thereby made the people dissatisfied. There was a case of one Girdhari Lal, a Marwari. Mr. Lyall had helped the other side with money to conduct his case and he dared to disregard the order of the High Court to stay proceeding in the case. Some of the Calcutta papers and particularly the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* wrote scathingly on this matter. On the 27th April, 1908 *Amrita Bazar Patrika* had published an article on Lyall and the motion made in the Calcutta High Court for the transfer of one Rasbihari Mandal's case from Bhagalpur. There was also a Sultanganj Swadeshi case in which Mr. Lyall had figured. Sir Andrew Frazer, Lt. Governor of Bengal, had visited Bhagalpur immediately after the Sultanganj case and had praised Lyall at a public meeting for the vigcrous steps taken by him. In Rasbihari Mandal's case, Lyall's use of unparliamentary language towards Justices Fletcher and Mitra in his explanation came in for severe criticism in *Amrita Bazar Patrika* on the 23rd April, 1908. There was another article in the same paper on the same subject on the 29th April, 1908. In an indirect manner Lyall made a contribution to the mounting dissatisfaction of the people and indirectly the growth of nationalist idea and an allergy to British domination.

The Students' Movement was taking its roots in various parts of Bihar in the first two decades of the 20th century. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of the Indian Republic and others took a lot of interest in organising the Students' Movement. Bhagalpur was a great centre for these activities and some of the annual sessions were held in Bhagalpur district. It is also to be mentioned that Bhagalpur was the scene of the early activities of the Muslim League and the question of separate electorate for the Muslims had created a good deal of excitement in Bhagalpur. A Bihari Conference was held at Bhagalpur in April, 1909. Bhagalpur was in a way being prepared for the last phase of Freedom Movement.

Among other important events mention may be made of the great Bihar Earthquake in 1934. The district of Bhagalpur so far as the portion to the south of the river Ganga is concerned was not much affected. The portion of Bhagalpur district to the north of Ganga river consisting of Supaul and Madhipura subdivisions was affected more and the effects of the Earthquake were more prominent throughout North Bihar.

As the two outlying subdivisions of Madhipura and Supaul were difficult to reach owing to the rivers and frequent floods and want of railways it was increasingly felt that there should be a separate district consisting of Madhipura and Supaul subdivisions.

A sub-district was formed first in 1944 with an Additional District Magistrate with headquarters at Saharsa. The Additional District Magistrate had a nominal subordination of the Collector of Bhagalpur for revenue matters only. The sub-district was converted into a full-fledged district on 1st April 1954 with Saharsa as the headquarters. With the creation of a separate district this area has been very much improved.

FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN BHAGALPUR DISTRICT.

A new phase of the movement for freedom was set in the country from near about 1918. Bhagalpur was also much affected. In December, 1918 a number of arrests were made at Bhagalpur on the charge of conspiracy. A young man, named Anath Bandhu Chaudhury was arrested under section 12 A of Defence of India Act. He stated that he was an agent of the Bolpur Conspiracy party in Bengal and his mission was to distribute leaflets relating to "Swadhin Bharat Movement". Dr. Rabindranath Tagore protested at his arrest and the young boy was shifted to Bengal.

The Rowlatt Act and the sad occurrences of firing at Jalianawala Bag had their effect in Bhagalpur district also. Widely attended meetings, *hartals*, and picketings took place in different parts of the district. The students were prominent in these moves.

In 1922 an Industrial Exhibition was held at Bhagalpur where the Congress Party flag was hung. The European District Magistrate objected to this and on the intervention of the Commissioner of the Division, Mr. B.C. Sen, I.C.S., the Congress Party flag was not taken out but the Union flag was fixed higher. This incident was the talk of the day and Mr. B. C. Sen, I.C.S. was taken to task by the Government. A tremendous nationalist feeling was the result.

The Bhagalpur Central Jail was commonly used for lodging a larger number of political prisoners who were being arrested all over the province because of joining Non-Cooperation Movement at the bid of Gandhiji. The fact of very harsh treatment to the political prisoners leaked out. Jail rules were modified to harass the political prisoners all the more.

Bhagalpur district had made a great response to all the different phases of the Non-Cooperation Movement guided by Gandhiji. Seth Jamna Lal Bajaj had visited several places in Bhagalpur district in January, 1923. People had liberally contributed to the Congress Party at the instance of Bajaj. The Swaraj Party in the district of Bhagalpur was well established.

A Hindu-Muslim riot occurred at Bhagalpur in September-October, 1924 and a section of interested persons were fanning communal unrest. The Muslim League activities were also

spreading within the district. The unfortunate communal tension was somewhat controlled by the intervention of Sri Rajendra Prasad and other leaders of Bihar.

In January, 1927 Shri Sachin Bakshi was arrested at Bhagalpur on the charge of being a leader of the Revolutionary Movement. This shows that Bhagalpur was also caught by revolutionary doctrines.

When in February, 1930 the Congress Working Committee at Ahamedabad authorised Gandhiji to launch a Civil Disobedience Movement there was a great unrest in the district. In 1930 about 770 persons of this district were enrolled as volunteers for Satyagrah Movement sponsored by Gandhiji for breaking the monopoly on Salt and Salt tax. Widespread *hartals* were held when Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru and other leaders were arrested and convicted for Salt Satyagrah. Feelings ran high and became explosive.

Bihpur became the storm centre and the district authorities were out to crush the Movement at Bihpur. A batch of volunteers picketing the excise shops were severely beaten and the party flag was burnt by the Magistrate and Police on the 1st June, 1930. The Police took possession of the Congress Office, Khadi Depot and Charkha Sangh. Ruthless suppression was the order of the day and many of the local leaders in Bhagalpur district were belaboured and their properties looted. But with all the repression the Satyagraha Movement continued till it was called off because of Gandhi-Irwin pact. The intensity of the movement was apparent in the fact that British goods were considerably boycotted and in a number of villages in Colgong and Sultanganj tenants had stopped payment of the Chaukidari tax in 1930. Report ending 26th September, 1930 mentions that 1,650 persons had been arrested for taking part in Satyagraha Movement.

Simultaneously the Kisan Movement at the instance of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati and others was exciting the agriculturists against the load of grievances against the Zamindars and the administration. The low prices of agricultural produce were high lighted. The mob oratory of Sahajanand and others fired imagination of the peasants who were being organised practically for the first time. Kisan Sabhas were organised throughout the district side by side with the Congress offices. A large number of Kisan Sabhaits were arrested under various sections. There was a concentrated agitation by the tenants against the Grant's Estate in 1936 followed by large-scale arrests.

The Bihar Provincial Muslim Azad Political Conference was held at Sonhaula, P.-S. Colgong in the district of Bhagalpur in July, 1940 under the presidentship of Mr. Saiyad Abdullah Brelvi. The conference condemned Muslim League activities.

The All-India 1942 Movement following the arrests of Gandhiji and others in the month of August had a tremendous impact on the district. The students were again in the forefront. Huge processions of students protesting against the arrests were taken out in spite of restrictions and ban for public processions and meeting for three days continuously from 9th to 11th of August. Demonstrations were held throughout the district and Government courts and offices were the targets.

The Congress Party flags were hoisted on a number of Government buildings. It almost appeared that there was a negation of administration. On the 12th of August, various places in the district saw processions and hoisting of the Congress flags on various Government institutions. There were violent demonstrations at many Post Offices, Police Stations and Railway Stations and some of these were forcibly occupied. Fire was opened at Naugachhia followed by firing at various places. According to the Commissioner's report the Police had opened fire on a violent crowd attacking the Railway goods shed at Bhagalpur. A crowd of some six thousand persons overpowered the police party and snatched away the weapons. In spite of ban a meeting was held at Lajpat Park in Bhagalpur on the 15th August, 1942. Firing was resorted to by the police after Lathi charge failed to disperse the crowd. The District Magistrate went to the place with armed force but did not open fire, "owing to darkness and the position in which he was placed".

The District Magistrate and S.P. had to retire with the force and according to the Commissioner of Bhagalpur division the incident had an extremely bad effect on the morale of the Military Police. The Commissioner had reported that their position in Bhagalpur was extremely precarious till a troop of the South Staffords came to Bhagalpur on the 19th August. It may be mentioned here that the meeting on the 15th August was preceded by a huge procession on the 14th August with the dead body of a man who was killed by firing at Naugachhia.

The schools and colleges were closed down on the 16th August by order of the Government. On the 16th August a crowd had entered into B. & N. W. Railway goods shed at Bhagalpur and killed some persons. Firing was opened on the crowd. On the 16th and 17th August the excited mob had forcibly occupied different Railway Stations, Police Stations, Sabour Agriculture College, Nathnagar Silk Institute, etc., and by this time all the channels of communication from Bhagalpur had been effectively cut off.

On the 17th August there were firings on the crowd at B. & N.W. Railway Station at Bhagalpur and Nathnagar followed by firing on a procession at Champanagar at 10 P.M. in the night.

Naturally there were a number of deaths and injuries on the large number of people. No Government servants could come out without an armed escort.

The situation of North Bhagalpur moved in the same pattern. For about a month there was practically very little of administration. According to official report up to 30th November, 1942 the total number of arrests in Bhagalpur district mounted to 1,573 out of which 1,080 persons were sent to jail.

Ruthless steps were taken and heavy punitive taxes and fines were imposed on the people in various areas. Some villages in Madhepura P.-S., Bangaon P.-S., Murliganj P.-S., Sonbarsa P.-S. and Kishanganj P.-S. (now in Saharsa district) were sought out for such steps.

In Banka subdivision also very heavy taxes and fines were imposed in various pockets. Bihpur, Sultanganj and Naugachhia were in the brunt.

Although seemingly suppressed by the repressive measures the movement for freedom that had taken deep roots did not subside. The people of Bhagalpur closely followed the All-India and such provincial matters which were momentous in their effect like the escape of Jayprakash Narain and others from the Hazaribagh Jail on the 9th November, 1942, etc. As mentioned before quite a number of workers had gone underground and Siaram Singh, a local leader of Bhagalpur district and a few others almost became a legend known as Siaram Dal. It is understood that they were out to collect money, arms, etc., and were organising the people although they were underground. Secret instructions were being issued and meetings and *hartals* were regularly held for many important events. Thus when Gandhiji wanted to go on fast from the 10th February, 1943 as a protest against Government excesses the deep resentment of the people of Bhagalpur was expressed in meetings and *hartals* at different places on the 17th and 19th February, 1943. To commemorate the anniversary of the revolution of August, 1942 there were widespread celebrations on the 9th August, 1944.

From June, 1945 the political events of All-India character moved very fast and Bhagalpur people also closely followed them. The declaration on the 19th September, 1945 by Lord Wavel and the British Prime Minister, Mr Attlee indicating the steps to be taken for solution of the Indian problem and expressing the hope that after the elections of the Central and Provincial Legislatures, ministerial responsibility will be accepted by political leaders was hailed with delight in Bhagalpur district.

The next phase was an election campaign throughout Bhagalpur district on behalf of the Congress Movement. The enthusiasm was, however damped by communal disturbances. In 1946 along

with many other districts in Bihar, Bhagalpur was also the scene of widespread communal tension and disturbances. Riots started in Bhagalpur town on the 20th October from where it spread to the Banka subdivision. The riots were communal and the Muslims suffered heavier casualties. One of the worst occurrences had taken place at village Lakhanpur part of which lies in Bhagalpur district and the other part in Monghyr district. To wreck vengeance on a few misguided Muslims for tampering with some Hindu girls, a mob of Hindus had invaded the village and had massacred quite a number of Muslim women and children. Sporadic killings became the order of the day almost throughout the district. The contagion spread to Banka subdivision as well. Troops were promptly sent to quell the disturbances. The Magistracy with armed police and with the help of the Military could control the situation with great difficulty but not before there had been considerable casualty and arson. This communal riot in Bihar had its repercussion later in the Punjab and elsewhere. Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Lord Wavell had rushed to Patna and visited certain affected areas.

Events moved very fast and Lord Mountbatten succeeding Lord Wavel on the 14th March, 1947 laboured hard to accelerate a solution. His plans were accepted by the All-India Congress Committee and the Indian Independence Bill was introduced into the British Parliament and passed quickly in the month of July, 1947. According to this Act from August 15, 1947 two Indian Dominions were set up in India to be known respectively as India and Pakistan.

15th August, 1947 the Independence Day was celebrated with great pomp in Bhagalpur district. Before a large crowd on this day the Union Jack was lowered and the National Flag was hoisted by the Commissioner of Bhagalpur Division at Sandy's compound. But in the midst of all these rejoicings many people of Bhagalpur district had shared Gandhiji's sorrow because India had been truncated. By this time the Congress Ministry had already been formed in Patna and with the popular Ministry at Patna a new phase was entered into.*

*A bibliography has been given as an appendix which may be useful for further study.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

Growth of Population

"Owing to the frequent and extensive changes which have taken place in the district boundary prior to 1874 it is impossible to ascertain what was the population before that date of the area which is now included in the district.

"Dr. Buchanan Hamilton in 1811 estimated the population per square mile of thana Painti, corresponding to the present thana Colgong, to be 148, and that of Lokmanpur, corresponding to Bihpur, to be 204 to the square mile.

"Either this was an under-estimate or the population of these thanas must have doubled between 1811 and 1872 when the first regular Census was effected. Dr. Buchanan Hamilton estimated the density of population in the Sadar thana (*Kotwali*) as 1,076 per square mile. This, if correct, shows that the population has remained nearly stationary since 1811, but it is improbable that this is the case.

"In 1853 the Revenue Surveyor, Mr. Pemberton, made an estimate of the population of the four parganas which then constituted North Bhagalpur, viz., Naredigar, Malhanigopal, Nisankhpur, Kurha and Chhai. He estimated the number of houses in these parganas covering an area of 1,699 square miles at 90,460. Allowing five persons to each house this brought the total population to 452,300 or 266 per square mile. As at that time pargana Chhai was at least as thickly populated as at present and possibly more, so this was certainly an under-estimate."*

Regular decennial census operations were sponsored in 1872. Before that, however, there were some Experimental Census Operations which were neither comprehensive nor very accurate. Nevertheless, they indicate certain trends. In 1869 Experimental Census Operations were undertaken in the Lower Provinces of Bengal and the report on the Experimental Census Operations of 1869 was written by H. Beverley and published in 1870 from Calcutta.

The report of the Commissioner, portions of which have been embodied in the report, shows that in the Sadar Subdivision of

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**Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Bhagalpur District, 1902—1910;* P. 8.

Bhagalpur the superintendence of the work was entrusted to the Excise Deputy Collector, Babu Purna Chandra Neogee. The enumeration of Bhagalpur and Colgong was conducted by their respective Municipalities and supervised by the Supervisor specially appointed under the Government sanction. It was mentioned in the report "in the Banka Subdivision, the census of Banka and four other villages was completed by the Supervisor and the Deputy Collector's Amlah, aided by the Zamindari Patwaris and Chaukidars, under the personal supervision of the Deputy Collector". It was further mentioned that "proceedings appear to have been conducted in much the same method as elsewhere, except that in this Division a paid Supervisor was attached to each subdivision. The people are reported to have regarded the operations with suspicion, and the District Officers were only partially successful in their endeavours to disabuse the public mind of an ineasy fear of increased taxation".

As mentioned, the Census Operations were not comprehensive and were confined to selected tracts. It will be, however, of interest to note that in the statistics according to caste and nationality were mentioned Hindus, Muhammadans, Christians, Santhals, Dhangars and some other communities who had not returned any one. Among Hindus, the sections were Brahmins, Khettri, Baidya, Kayastha, Satgop, Tanti, Napit, Mali. Mayra, Barui, Kumar, Kamhar, Banik and other castes. Christians were subdivided into Europeans, Eurasians and Natives. Bhagalpur Municipality returned the grand total of 30,154 distributed as follows :—

Brahmins (1,011), Khettri (431), Kayastha (761), Tanti (741), Napit (260), Teli (895), Mali (149), Mayra (194), Kamhar (256), Kamar (53), Banik (292), other castes (9,762). Total Hindus 14,805, Muhammadans (5,203), European Christians (31), Eurasian Christians (14), Native Christians (61), Santhals (31), Dhangars (5), Jew (4). In 1869, the total population of Sabour which is now a town was 511, Jagdishpur, a very large village now near Bhagalpur, had the population of 230. Baunsi, a township now in Banka Subdivision, had 441 population. Banka which is the Subdivisional headquarters had the population of 414 while the Colgong Municipality had 1,567 souls.

In the statement of ages of the male population we find that the percentage of adults able to read in Bhagalpur Municipality was 20.58, at Banka 16.42, at Colgong Municipality 16.54, at Baunsi 18.14, at Sabour 7.63 and at Jagdishpur 21.3.

The census operations from 1872 to 1901 give the population of the district :—

Years.	Total population.	Percentage of increase.
1872	1,824,738	..
1881	1,966,158	7.7
1891	2,032,690	3.3
1901	2,088,953	2.8

The census of 1872 recorded a total population of 1,824,738. During the next decade there was an increase of 7.7 per cent and it recorded a total population of 1,966, 158 in 1881. There was a further increase of 3.3 per cent in the next decade and the total population in 1891 was 2,032,696. The marked decline in the rate of increase between 1881 and 1891 as compared with that in the period between 1872 to 1881 must be attributed largely to the less accurate nature of the enumeration made in 1872. The increase for 1891 to 1901 appears due to natural growth.

It has to be mentioned here that before the creation of Saharsa district, Bhagalpur included the subdivisions of Supaul, Madhipura, Sadar and Banka. As stated above the figures of growth of population from 1872 to 1901 include the entire previous Bhagalpur district. The subdivisions of Madhipura and Supaul were taken out and Saharsa was created as a separate district in 1954 with an area of 2,143 square miles and a total population of 1,308,198. The headquarters of Saharsa district was located at Saharsa which had to be developed. At first there was an Additional District Magistrate at Saharsa with a nominal subordination to the District Magistrate of Bhagalpur for revenue matters. Later the status was changed into that of a District Magistrate. Now Bhagalpur includes only two subdivisions, i. e., Bhagalpur Sadar and Banka. For the convenience of the readers, the re-adjusted figures of the growth of population of Bhagalpur district from 1901 to 1961 are given below in the following statement taken from page 3 of District Census Handbook of Bhagalpur, 1951, published in 1956.

Census year.	Persons.	Variation.	Net variation, 1901—1951.	Males.	Variation.	Females.	Variation.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1901 ..	1,018,743	..	..	495,198	..	523,545	..
1911 ..	1,036,037	+17,294	..	507,911	+12,713	528,126	+4,581
1921 ..	966,645	—69,392	..	476,559	—31,352	490,086	—38,040
1931 ..	1,113,964	+147,319	..	560,505	+83,946	553,459	+63,373
1941 ..	1,273,061	+159,097	..	646,986	+86,481	626,075	+72,616
1951 ..	1,429,069	+156,008	+410,326	728,681	+81,695	700,388	+74,313
1961 ..	1,715,128	+286,059	..	878,166	+149,485	836,962	+136,574

CENSUS OF 1901

Regarding the statistics of the growth of population in 1901, the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) mentions as follows:—

> "The increase in population between 1891 and 1901 was far from being uniform throughout the district ...... the increase was greatest in the Sadar subdivision, in which it amounted to 6 per cent. The greater part of this increase was in Bhagalpur and Colgong thanas, and it has been attributed to increased commercial activity in the two municipalities, which attracted more inhabitants into them." "In Banka subdivision the increase was 2.4 per cent..........."

Regarding the growth of population between 1891—1901 the census of India (Report), 1951 mentions as follows:—

> "The next decade (1891—1900) was more satisfactory. Scarcity prevailed in the years 1891 and 1896-97, but it did not in either year amount to famine. There was an excessive prevalence of fever and also a severe outbreak of cholera in 1894, but otherwise the decade was fairly healthy. The 1901 census recorded an increase of 4.4 per cent."

CENSUS OF 1911

Regarding the growth of population shown by the census in 1911, L. S. S.O' Malley observes in the Census Report of 1911 as follows:—

> "Bhagalpur is divided in two by the Ganges, and conditions differ considerably in the north and south. The north consists of alluvium as far as the limits of the Kosi floods, after which sandy flats appear. Till 40 years ago the country in the extreme north was covered with jungle or sal forest, which has now been cleared away. The land is mainly under rice cultivation and, being traversed by a number of rivers with numerous cross-channels, needs little irrigation. The highest density (641 to the square mile) is found in the Bhagalpur subdivision, which extends along both sides of the Ganges, and has a rich alluvial soil annually renewed by the fertilizing overflow of that river. Further south the surface gradually rises till a hilly tract is reached, in which artificial irrigation is necessary for the cultivation of rice. This broken country corresponds to the Banka subdivision in which there are only 370 persons to the square mile.

According to the readjusted figure of the growth of population in 1911, there was a total population of 1,036,037 which had increased by 17,294. The decade, 1901—1911 was prosperous and in spite of natural calamities, the natural increase was marked by 1.70 per cent. The Banka subdivision remained stationary. The Sadar subdivision in the centre had a small increase.

CENSUS OF 1921

Regarding the census of 1921, P. C. Tallents mentions in Census Report, as follows:—

> "By 1911 the rate of increase had declined still further to 2.4 per cent. A large increase in Bihpur thana, also ascribed to extension of cultivation, saved the Sadar subdivision from decline. Banka in the south was stationary.
>
> "The last decade started badly. In 1911 there was abundant rain and the crops were good but outbreaks of cholera and fever raised the death-rate. The following two years were fairly healthy and so was 1914, when in spite of floods in the Kosi and Ganges the number of deaths from fever was unusually low............; cholera indeed continued to take heavy toll in this district till the year 1919. The rains of 1916 and 1917 had been good and so had the crops. In 1918 the rains continued good down till the middle of September when there was a complete cessation. In the south of the district the rice crop was a failure and famine had to be declared in parts from June to December in the following year. Prices rose in sympathy and meanwhile the distress of the people was increased by the influenza epidemic which raised the death-rate of 1918 to 52.2 per mille, against an ave age of 32.9 for the preceding five years, and that of 1919 to 41.3; meanwhile the birth-rate of 1919 fell to 28.9 per mille or nearly 10 per mille less than the average of the previous five years. The excess of reported deaths over births was 36,000 in 1918 and 26,000 in 1919. It was not till 1920 that the balance between births and deaths readjusted itself in favour of the former. During these ten years there were in all 805.000 births and 728,000 deaths, the net natural increase recorded being 77,000 against 103,000 in the previous decade."

The re-adjusted figures of population of 1921 show a fall of 69,392 or 6.70 per cent and record a total population of 966,645 persons.

CENSUS OF 1931

In the Census report of 1931 W. G. Lacey had mentioned that the average density per square mile of the population was 529. According to the re-adjusted figure, the total population of the district was 1,113,964 and it had increased by 147,319 or 15.24 per cent as compared with figures in 1921.

Regarding the incidence of population W. G. Lacey further mentions in Census Report of 1931, as follows:—

> "The last decade opened well for Bhagalpur district. The rice crop of 1921 was below the average in the Sadar and Banka subdivisions, but good harvests were obtained in the north of the district and the year was quite a healthy one. The birth-rate (38.3 per mille) was higher than in any subsequent year of the decade. In 1927 the Kosi floods were more persistent and widespread than usual, and the crops in the north of the district (particularly in the Supaul subdivision) suffered in consequence*, while the Banka subdivision in the south was subjected to a similar experience in 1929. In 1924 and 1928 the rainfall was either inadequate or badly distributed in the south of the district, with the result that the harvests in those years were disappointing. Otherwise climatic conditions were generally favourable throughout the decade. There was a marked improvement in the general standard of public health. Malaria and bowel complaints are very prevalent in the Kosi-affected localities, and the normal incidence of deaths from cholera is high in this district. During the decade under review there was no severe outbreak of cholera until 1928, but in the last three years this disease accounted for altogether 25,000 deaths. The only occasion on which small-pox broke out with any severity was in 1927, when the number of deaths was not much short of 3,000. It is note worthy that plague did not make its appearance at all in Bhagalpur district during this period. The years during which the population increased most rapidly were 1925 to 1927, in each of which the rate of survival was more than 15 per mille. This rate fell to its lowest point (4 per mille) during the last year of the decade—not so much because of the unhealthiness of that year as because the number of births was much less than on any previous occasion.......... In South Bhagalpur the Mandar Hill branch railway line, which had been closed during the Great War, was re-opened in the year 1924.

*The flood of Kosi in 1927 had affected mainly those areas which now fall in the separate district of Saharsa (P. C. R. Co.).

"The net rate of increase in Bhagalpur's population during the last decade was 9.88. The distribution of this substantial surplus between the subdivisions and revenue thanas of the district was very unequal. Generally speaking, it was those localities which had suffered most heavily during the previous ten years that now recorded the most rapid growth. Thus, in the extreme south of the district, Banka subdivision converted a loss of 10.30 into a gain of 20.38. The advent of a period of comparative prosperity after some years of disaster is wont to cause the pendulum to swing in this abrupt way. Moreover, it has already been seen that many persons had migrated from this subdivision at about the time when the 1921 census was taken, and the majority of these doubtless returned to their homes later on. In any case it was high time that this subdivision, where the pressure on the soil is not over-great, began to bestir itself. During the forty years immediately preceding the census of 1921 it had not only failed to make any progress, but its population was less by about 28,000 than it had been at the beginning. The next largest increase is shown by the Sadar Subdivision. Here also the rate of progress had previously been very slow, the net increase between 1881 to 1921 being only about 28,500 or little more than 5 per cent. The surplus in this subdivision is most marked in the headquarters thana, and this is largely attributable to the rapid growth of Bhagalpur City. North of the river, where the population had been multiplying much more quickly in previous decades, the progress recorded on this occasion is not nearly so marked as in the south. Here we find, for the first time, two revenue thanas in which the population has actually fallen away in the last ten years.

"In the case of Pratapganj the loss is substantial (7.81 per cent), but it may be attributed almost entirely to the action of the Kosi river............The actual loss incurred by Kishanganj thana is slight, being only 0.92 per cent. Here again the Kosi is primarily responsible ....It will be observed that in the previous decade Kishanganj was the only thana to record a substantial increase, due mainly to migration from the neighbouring thana of Madhipura. It is probable that some of these immigrants have since been scared away by signs of the return of the river to its old channels. Bangaon is for the present the only thana in North Bhagalpur which is more or less secure against inundation from the Kosi, and this is why the rate of increase in Bangaon is higher than anywhere else."*

*Pratapganj, Madhipura, etc., now fall within the newly created district of Saharsa (P. C. R. C.).

The re-adjusted figures of 1931 census record a total population of 1,113,964 show an increase by 147,319 or 15.24 per cent over the 1921 total.

CENSUS OF 1941

Regarding the census of 1941, the Census Report of India, 1951 (Volume V., P. 39), mentions that "In the 1931—40 decade, public health remained satisfactory throughout, though there were mild epidemics of cholera in 1931, 1934 and 1935. Crops were satisfactory or better than average practically every year except in 1934 and 1939 when they were damaged in some areas by floods. The 1941 census disclosed an increase of 159,097 of 14.3 per cent over the 1931 total." The census operations were considerably cut down due to the Second World War and the detailed report of 1941 census was not published.

CENSUS OF 1951

The Census Report of India, 1951 (Vol. V., P. 39), mentions that "Public health continued to be satisfactory during the last decade. Harvests were generally normal in all years except 1950 when, as in other districts, all principal crops were seriously deficient. The population has increased by 156,008 or 12.3 per cent".

CENSUS OF 1961

From the provisional statistics of the 1961 census it appears that there has been a remarkable increase in the growth of population. The decade 1951—61 was comparatively free from epidemics. It appears that increase in population was more due to natural increase and because there has been a great expansion of development activities throughout the district. Trade and Commerce have increased and there has been some development of industries. The overall increase in 1961 was 20.2 per cent from the previous census. The total population of the district according to 1961 census is 1,715,128 or the population has increased by 286,059 souls.

POPULATION ACCORDING TO SUBDIVISIONS AND REVENUE THANAS

The district has two subdivisions, viz., Sadar and Banka. The Sadar subdivision has four revenue thanas while the Banka subdivision has three, each revenue thana has been divided into several Police-stations. The following table will show the sub-

division-wise and revenue thana-wise population of 1951 and 1961 censuses:—

POPULATION.*

Subdivision Revenue Thana.	1951. Persons.	1951. Males.	1951. Females.	1961. Persons.	1961. Males.	1961. Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SADAR SUBDIVISION	841,309	432,846	408,463	1,026,352	531,126	495,226
Sultanganj revenue thana	122,557	61,419	61,138	..	..	..
Bhagalpur revenue thana	275,351	144,015	131,336	..	.	..
Colgong revenue thana	287,883	146,897	140,086	..	..	..
Bihpur revenue thana	155,518	80,515	75,003	..	..	..
BANKA SUBDIVISION	587,760	295,835	291,925	688,776	347,040	341,736
Amarpur revenue thana	198,789	100,741	98,048	..	..	..
Katoria revenue thana	163,374	81,420	81,954	..	..	.
Banka revenue thana ..	225,597	113,674	111,923	..	..	.

*(District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur, 1951, P. 108).

Emigration and Immigration

Regarding the incidence of emigration and immigration, the matter has been dealt in text on 'Economic Trends'.

Urban and Rural Areas

Distribution between rural and urban areas has been a dealt in 'Economic Trends' chapter.

Density of Population

Regarding the density of population, the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur, 1911, by J. Byrne, mentions as follows:—

"The pressure of the population on the soil has gone on increasing steadily since 1872. In that year there were 432 persons per square mile in the district. In 1881 there were 465 persons. In 1891, there were 481 and in 1901,

> there were 494. This figure is considerably below that for the adjacent districts of Monghyr and Darbhanga with 527 and 873 persons per square mile, respectively; but it is considerably in excess of Purnea, which has only 375 per square mile."

The density of population from 1911 to 1941 has been mentioned earlier.

The above description includes both Bhagalpur and Saharsa districts. But as already mentioned Saharsa is now a separate district. For the convenience of the readers the description given below shows the density of population only for Bhagalpur district according to the census of 1951.

The Census of India, 1951, Volume V, Bihar, mentions that Bhagalpur which includes Bihpur revenue thana, a fertile and densely populated strip of 208 square miles lying north of the Ganga, has an avoage density of 748 persons per square mile. In the Sadar subdivision, the average density is as high as 906 persons per square mile and it rises to 1,610 in the Bhagalpur revenue thana (171 square miles). The average density of the Banka subdivision which is hilly comes to 492 only and in some police-stations, such as Katoria it falls to 240. According to the census of 1961 (provisional figures), Bhagalpur district has an area of 2,179 square miles and the density of population is 787 per square mile.

DISPLACED PERSONS

The partition of the country in 1947, constrained the Hindus of East Pakistan and West Pakistan to leave their hearth and home and come to all the States of India including the State of Bihar. The influx of displaced persons was very rapid which was caused due to communal tension kept aflame in Eastern and Western Pakistan. The magnitude of the problem which the Government of India had to bear was unprecedented in human history. The Government of India tried to solve this unprecedented problem and made a request to all the States of the Indian Union to share the responsibility to rehabilitate the displaced persons. Like other districts, displaced persons both from East and West Pakistan started coming to Bhagalpur district even just before the partition owing to the communal riots in 1946-47.

The total number of displaced persons in this district according to the Census of 1951 was 677 from West Pakistan and 544 from East Pakistan. This figure seems an under-estimate.

In 1950 a refugee camp was established at Bhagalpur in different Dharmashalas for the displaced persons from East Pakistan which, however, has long been wound up.

Further, in 1953-54, eighty tenements were constructed on evacuee land at Khanjarpur (a mahalla in Bhagalpur town) for the purpose of rehabilitating the displaced persons of Bhagalpur town who were living in rented houses. These displaced persons did not occupy the said eighty tenements. So the tenements were utilised for accommodating displaced persons of Permanent Liability Category who number 130 at present. These 130 persons came from various camps in the State, i.e., Ranchi, Gaya, Hathwa, etc.

In the same financial year 1953-54, 27 houses were constructed at Colgong for 27 displaced families in order to rehabilitate them. They were sent to occupy these tenements. Twenty-two families have already deserted the camp at Colgong.

Five families of these 27 are still there. A portion of these tenements is being utilised for accommodating 20 persons of Permanent Liability Category since 1954. Five families more have been brought from Bettiah Refugee Camp for rehabilitation in the year 1959.

Again in November, 1959, one hundred families which included 94 fishermen families and 6 other small trader families of East Pakistan, were sent from Bettiah Refugee Camp for rehabilitation at Colgong. These fishermen were particularly rehabilitated at Colgong by the side of the river Ganga so that they would get more facility in following their old profession of fishery. These 100 families consisted of 438 members. Out of these 100 families, 36 families have already deserted the camp in the year 1960-61, without informing the authorities.

In the month of November, 1959 a Refugee Colony was established at Pirpainty. Government had sent 59 families of East Pakistan to be rehabilitated at this camp from Bettiah Camp. These 59 families consisted of 289 members. Out of these 59, one family has already deserted the camp without informing the authorities and the rest of them are still there.

Another Refugee Colony was started at Barari a part of Bhagalpur town in January, 1960. Government again sent 125 families of East Pakistan from Bettiah Relief Camp. Later on 19 families were again sent in the same year for rehabilitation. These families consist of 122 fishermen. The rest are grocer and other small trader families. The total number of persons covered by these 144 families comes to 558 persons.

Mention has to be made about the loans and discretionary grants which were given to the displaced persons.

27 families of West Pakistan and 163 families of East Pakistan were given necessary advances of loans of Rs. 26,183 and Rs. 1,12,189 respectively upto 1958-59. Again 5 families who came to Colgong colony in April, 1959 were given a loan of Rs. 7,000, in 1959-60 financial year.

The table given below shows the amount of loan advanced to the families of Barari, Pirpainty and Colgong in the two financial years, i. e., 1959-60 and 1960-61:—

Families.	Years— 1959-60.	1960-61.
	Rs.	Rs.
Barari families	51,000.00	1,26,968.30
Pirpainty families	44,350.00	19,917.36
Colgong families	75,300.00	28,926.00
Total Rs.	1,70,650.00	1,75,811.66

The total amount which was advanced as loan in 1959-60 and 1960-61 comes to Rs. 3,46,461.66 only. A total sum of Rs. 39,884.90 was paid to these families as grant.

The total amount spent over the camp inmates for their food, cashdole, clothes, medical and sanitation, etc., up to, 1960-61 is Rs. 2,27,735.00 They have been paid Rs. 4 003.00 as discretionary grant.

Language

So far as the language is concerned, the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur, 1911, by J. Byrne, mentions as follows:—

"The language prevalent in the district is the Maithili dialect of Bihari Hindi. Mithila, also called Tirhutia, was the country bounded on the north by the Himalayas, on the south by the Ganges, on the east by the Kosi and on the west by the Gandak, and it is famous as being the home of the Tirhutia Brahmans. For a long time those of them who lived south of the Ganges were considered socially inferior to those who remained within the confines of Mithila, but this distinction seems to have passed away.

"In the south of district there is a dialect prevalent called '*chhikka-chhikki boli*', the most striking peculiarity of which is that those who speak it add a vowel sound (like 'O' in 'not') at the end of words. The Magahi dialect of Bihari Hindi has had some influence on the grammar and vocabulary of that part of the district lying south of the Ganges, but it has not ousted the Maithili dialect. The '*chhikka-chhikki boli*' is so called from its frequent use of the syllable '*Chhik*' in the conjugation of the verb substantive.*

*Over 900,000 persons speak this dialect: see Grierson's Linguistic Survey, Vol. V., P. 95.

"Educated Muhammadans of course prefer to speak Urdu with more or less of a Persian admixture.

"The character in most common use is the cursive Kaithi, an invention of the Kayasths who derived it obviously from the Devanagari character. In 1871 Sir George Campbell made the use of this character optional in all Court transactions, in addition to the Persian character. In 1880 the further use of the Persian character was prohibited, and the exclusive use of Kaithi was prescribed. The use of this character has had the effect of gradually assimilating the language used in school books, petitions, etc., to that in common everyday use. Formerly a quite excessive number of Arabic and Persian words were used in the Court languages current in Bihar.

"The non-Aryan people in the south of the district speak their own languages, such as Sonthali, Uraon and Mundari. Most of those who speak these languages are found in Banka subdivision. There were 26,632 Sontals, 4,804 Uraons and 1,190 Mundas in the district at the time of the 1901 Census."

Since Dr. Grierson's time there has been no linguistic survey and so it is difficult to stress with authority as what had been changed in the sphere of language since then. From the above statement of Mr. Byrne it appears that the Bengali language was conspicuously absent which seems to be improbable. Bhagalpur has been the seat of large section of Bengali speaking population since long past.

The table given below shows the number of persons—males and females in the District speaking different languages as mother tongue as mentioned in 1951 census*:—

Languages.	District		
	Persons	Males	Females
Total population	1,429,069	728,681	700,388
Indo-Aryan Languages—			
Hindi	1,360,342	690,959	660,383
Bengali	29,588	15,272	14,316
Marwari	1,226	774	452
Gujrati	5	5	..
Punjabi	2	..	2
Other Indo-Aryan Languages—			
Munda Languages	10	7	3
Santali	37,896	12,664	25,232

* *District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur*, 1951, p. 82.

Like the previous Censuses Urdu had not been enumerated separately and had been clubbed together with Hindi. Though Urdu has a separate entity but for the facilities of the interested persons in the language, the census in 1951 had given the number of Urdu speaking people as 109,006.*

Hindi is the principal language of the district. According to census of 1951, Hindi speaking people were about 93 per cent of the total population, which shows the popularity of this language. Hindi has now been adopted as the National Language of the country and because of this, it is becoming popular even among the non-Hindi speakers and, therefore, it has become essential for every gazetted and non-gazetted staff of the Government to pass the departmental examination in Hindi.

According to the above table the Bengali speaking population is about 2.3 per cent of the total population and Santhali by 2·6 per cent. Due to commercial importance of Bhagalpur the number of Marwari speaking people seems to be fairly large. Marwari language is confined only among the Marwaris who are mainly engaged in business. The other Indo-Aryan languages had not made any impact in the district which will be evident from the above table. The Punjabis are mostly displaced persons and their number in the district is still small. Similar is the case with the Gujarati speaking people so far as the number is concerned.

"Chhikka-chhikki boli" is the popular local dialect and has a large mixture of Hindi. The Bengali inhabitants of the district who have been here for generations use this dialect in their houses and this dialect is well understood by Hindi-speaking people. A large number of Hindi speaking local inhabitants speak fluently the Bengali language. As already mentioned, people of Shahabad and Ballia districts who migrated to this district during the movement of 1857, have adopted the local dialect in place of their own "*Bhojpuri*". Another peculiar feature of the district is that there are a few Jew families who speak the same local dialect in a fluent manner.

BILINGUALISM

The table given below shows the bilingualism in the district, i.e., it gives the number of persons who commonly use another

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**Ibid.*

Indian languages in their every day life in addition to (and sometimes largely in supersession of) their mother tongue*:—

Mother tongue.	Total speakers.	Total persons returned as speaking a Language subsidiary to that shown in column 1.	Subsidiary languages.	
1	2	3		4
Hindi	1,360,342	22,657	Bengali ..	11,441
			Santali ..	9,627
			Malto (Paharia) ..	958
			Marwari ..	631
Santali	37,896	8,677	Hindi	7,637
			Bengali ..	10,040
Bengali	29,568	3,817	Hindi	3,762
			Santali ..	44
			Marwari ..	11
Marwari	1,226	466	Hindi	462
			Bengali ..	4

The most popular language of the district is Hindi, Bengali and Urdu. Bhagalpur district is proud to have several good Hindi, Bengali and Urdu Writers and Poets. The rich contribution to Hindi, Bengali and Urdu literature by men of Bhagalpur has been covered in the text on Education and Culture.

USE OF SLANG

In all the languages and dialects common in the Bhagalpur district, the use of slang is a prominent feature. It is rather interesting to note that the slang used by one group of people may not be understood by another group following a different vocation of life. Some of the slangs are absolutely indigenous to the culture-complex of the people and the occupation they follow. Natural environments also have an influence on the development of the slangs.

An elephant driver has his peculiar slangs which another elephant driver (*Mahout*) and the elephant he rides on will understand. The slang orders used by a *Mahout* will not be intelligible to the palan-

***District Census Handbook of Bhagalpur*, 1951, p. 83.

quin-carrier or to the common agriculturists. Some of the slangs used by the elephant drivers are mentioned with their implications:—

Chai (drink water), *mal* (get up), *Chhat* (stand erect), *Shyam* (sit down), *Tir* (move aside), *Somir* (eat down), *Bri Bri* (water is dirty).

The indigenous slangs used by palanquin-bearer are also very interesting and picturesque. There are two bearers on either side of the shaft on the palanquin in front and two bearers to the shaft at the rear. It is the duty of the bearers in front to give the warning to the bearers at the rear. The bearers have to change their shoulders occasionally and have to indicate that the pair would like to take some rest and the road is good and they could go at a greater speed or that there is any pit or thorn on the path or so on. While in motion they cannot shout long sentences and hence the evolution of slangs in one or two words. Some of their slangs are as follows:—

Bara Moskaba Bharkila Rasta Hai (the path is good and smooth), *Hari Bhari Hai—Rasta Par Gobar Hai* (a fresh cowdung on the path), *Chaharwa* (there is a mud on the path), *Jaria Lagalba* (there is a tree with its root on the path beware.), *Bariya* (a thorn, has made its way into my leg-stop), *Chhitawa* (the path is full of thorns), *Barabar* (put down the palanquin on the path), *Jalwa Anchari* (the frontman warns that he is entering into water), *Bhari* (let us change shoulders), *Dahini Dhakka* (there is a tree on the right side), *Bainye Dhakka* (a tree on the left side), *Asmani Hara* (branches of a tree above-just bend down), *Tappa* (we are to cross a ridge or an elevated ground), *Jamotia Lagalba* (pieces of stone on the road—slacken speed), *Jieu* (start as a caution when lifting the palanquin), *Banalwa* (the road is very good—let us move with speed now), *Komar Katka* (let us now take a turn from this direction to another), *Daine Andhari* (there is a deep pit on the right side), *Baine Andhari* (a deep pit on the left side), *Sanmukh Sirwa* (in the front we have to pass over an elevated ground), *Bhala Mutarwa* (the road is now tapering from high level to a lower level), *Dhamak* (go slow—the occupants are heavy), *Lotan* (the path is running high and low to a great distance), *Chhipke* (standstill).

Equally picturesque is the use of the slangs of a goldsmith. As a class the goldsmiths are taken to be very shrewd and they must have a code word among themselves to warn the other workers as to the value of the metal that has been brought. If a man in need of money takes some gold to the goldsmith for sale and the goldsmith finds that the gold is of very superior quality and does not want that the seller should know about it, he will mutter *Gandhan* which means that the gold should be taken as it

is of very good quality. Peculiarly enough the goldsmith has different terms for the ordinary metals like silver, copper, brass, etc.

Regarding the fixing of price the man at the shop who tests has to indicate to the proprietor in code word and there is a regular code of slang terms, some of which are mentioned below:—

Rupchha sona (a piece of defective gold), *Chand Khad* (gold with a yellowish colour), *Gini khad ya subra sona* (gold mixed with copper), *Subra rupchha* (Gold mixed with one anna copper and ½ anna silver), *Sawai khadki Lati* (silver in which two annas *rangta* or *tanba* are mixed), *Parik* (Bad silver having a good deal of *rangta* or *tanba*), *Talka* or *Korba* (silver having very much *rangta* or *tanba*.)

The goldsmiths have also their code word in slangs for the seller when he makes out that the article brought for sale is stolen or if the seller appears to be a fool and could easily be hoodwinked. A goldsmith's slangs are usually kept secret.

In a similar manner the shopkeepers and the traders have their slang words for figures. Some traders use the following slang words for the numericals:—

San (1), *Sohaban* (2), *Singhara* (3), *Phonk* (4), *Budh* (5), *Dahak* (6), *Paint* (7), *Kothi* (8), *Kon* (9), *Salai* (10), *Eklai* (11), *Barahathi* (12).

The washerman has also his code word of instructions for ironing a cloth, fixing a mark, etc. The ploughman has his code word intelligible only to his bullocks or to the other members of his occupation. If he wants a bullock to turn to the right or to the left, he will use a particular code word. The various agricultural operations have given rise to indigenous slangs.

Although *thugs* have disappeared, there was a time when Bhagalpur district along with other parts of Bihar had quite a number of *thugs*. These *thugs* were cut-throat cheats who would spot out their victims and indicate to the colleagues in slangs that a particular man is a suitable victim and he should be fraternised with. It is commonly said that the *thugs* accompanying the man marked out as a victim would seek a suitable lonely spot for pouncing upon him and when such a spot is found the leader mutters *Narayan* or *Hara Hara* and the *thugs* fall upon the victims.

RELIGION AND CASTE

According to the table in District Census Handbook of Bhagalpur, 1951 (pp. 84-85) the total population of the district is 1,429,069 (males 728,681 ; females 700, 388). Out of this population Hindus count 1,263,728 (males 643,615 ; females 620,113). The Muslims count 163,483 (males 84,083 ; females 79,400), Sikhs 1,019 (males 526, females 493). Christians 421 (males 212, females 209), Jains 383 (males 224, females 159), Jews 31 (males 19, females 12) and Zoroastrians 4 (males 2, females 2).

The total population of the Hindus in the district comes to 88.3 per cent; Mohammadans account for 11.4 per cent the rest are the other communities who form only the fringe of the total population.

According to the Census of 1951, the number of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward classes was as follows:*—

— —		Males	Females	Total	Percentage of the total population
1		2	3	4	5
1. Scheduled castes	..	86,236	85,860	172,096	12.02
2. Scheduled Tribes	..	48,384	47,742	96,126	6.7
3. Backward Classes	..	276,110	259,021	535,144	37.5

The religion of the bulk of the members of the Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Classes is Hinduism.

The Muslims who form the next largest group after the Hindus are scattered all over the district. There is, however, a good sprinkling of Muslims in Bhagalpur town (29,701 according to 1951 Census) and this partially due to the fact that Bhagalpur was the headquarters of the Muslim rule in that area for decades. A number of important *mahallas* in Bhagalpur town have distinctive Muslim place names such as Maulanachak, Shahjangi, Kutubganj, Tatarpur, Sujaganj, etc. Their representation is strong in Colgong Revenue Thana while it is very thin in Katoria Revenue Thana. This shows that the Muslims settled more round about Bhagalpur town.

*District Census Handbook of Bhagalpur, 1951, pp. 89—90.

MARWARIES

The number of 383 Jains as mentioned in 1951 Census is a clearly an under-estimate. It is undersood that after Calcutta, Kanpur has the largest colony of Marwaris and Bhagalpur comes next to them. On local enquiry it was gathered that Bhagalpur district has a population of about 10,000 Marwaris. Even in Bhagalpur town the population of Marwaris is at least about 5,000 and the Marwari commmunity plays an important role in the civic and cultural life of the district. They hold much of the trade and commerce in their hand.

Most of them, i. e., about 70 per cent of the total population are employed in Marwari firms, about 10% are business magnets controlling various trades like cloth and rice, oil, and flour mills ; about 10 per cent are in different businesses like *Kirana*, iron, grain, hotels, press, stationery, etc., about 4 per cent priests, about 3 per cent have adopted different professions like lawyers, doctors, professors, etc., and about 3 per cent are owners of tea-stalls, betel-shops, etc.

There are various Marwari institutions but the main institution is Bihar *Prantiya* Marwari *Sammelan* established in the year 1938, having four sub-branches, namely, *Shiksha Samiti*, *Vivah Sampark Samiti*, *Bekari Nivarak Vibhag* and Bihar *Prantiya* Marwari *Sammelan* Reserve Fund. This *Sammelan* is the head office of all Marwari activities throughout the State of Bihar.

Shiksha Samiti.—This Samiti provides scholarships to Marwari College students and girl students of both schools and colleges. The scholarship is also given to those students who desire to go to foreign countries for higher studies in various subjects. The scholarship which they provide to the male students is refundable when they return after completing their studies but not before they are employed. They are allowed to refund the money either by instalment or at a time. Even the local students after getting their employment have to refund the money on the same condition. But this condition does not apply to the girl students. They are not to refund the scholarships. Under the education development programme several hostels and messes are running at various places like Patna, Muzaffarpur, Ranchi, etc., for the students of the said community. Several other educational institutions are running at Bhagalpur. The institutions are Marwari College, Marwari Pathshala. Marwari Kanya Pathshala, Bal-Subodhini Pathshala, Bhajanashram Vidyalaya, etc. Except Marwari Pathshala in all the schools, students even beyond the community are given free education. The teachers are paid by the donation fund. There is one Saraswati Library which is a Marwari institution and is quite popular in the town.

Vivah Sampark Samiti.—This *Samiti* looks after the matrimonial relation of the community. This *Samiti* is dead against the dowry system but it is not possible to check the underhand dowry system.

Bekari Nivarak Vibhag.—This branch tries to seek employment for the unemployed members of the community. Only a few members have been benefited by this branch.

Bihar Prantiya Marwari Sammelan Reserve Fund.—This Reserve fund is a Government registered concern. It was registered in the year 1952. Its main aim is to control the finance of the whole *Sammelan* and also to spend money where it is proper.

There is one other independent institution of the community known as *Marwari Sudhar Samiti*, which was established in 1923. It has a managing committee consisting of fifteen members including the President, Vice-President, Secretary, etc. The contribution for membership is Rs. 3 annually. This *Samiti* is financed by a timber-depot at Bararighat, Bhagalpur.

Its main aim is to raise the social standard of the community and to help the general mass beyond the community.

It has three sub-branches, namely, *Seva Vibhag*, *Siksha Vibhag* and charity fund.

Seva Vibhag.—This branch arranges volunteers during some *mela* or fair. The members of this *Vibhag* take proper care of the stray dead bodies even beyond the community.

Shiksha Vibhag.—Its only function is to provide free books to the boy and girl students of the community up to school standard.

Charity fund.—This charity fund is not like the Reserve fund of the *Sammelan*. It simply runs a small library and provides several magazines and periodicals to make the general mass habituated and also for the members of the said community.

There is one another independent institution of the community known as *Vyayamshala*. This *Vyayamshala* receives Government grants annually but the grants vary from year to year. This institution has a great importance.

Recently in *Sharirik Vyayam Sammelan* which was organised at Lucknow this *Vyayamshala* got the first prize.

There is one more Marwari institution which is known as Marwari *Sadavart Panchayat*. The main aim of this institution is to provide food to the poors or *Kangals* on Sundays, *Purnimas* and *Amavas*.

There are some highly connected and well-placed Marwari families like the Dhandhanias, Himatsingkas, Singhanias, Kothiwalas, Churiwalas, etc., who have taken a prominent part in founding charitable institutions for the general people like colleges, schools, libraries etc. They have now started taking part in civil politics as well.

Sikhs

The Census of 1951 records only 1,019 Sikhs although the number may have multiplied by now as this small community has the capacity of extending their occupation and usually invite their brethren from other parts. The Sikhs are located only in Bhagalpur town and they are mostly engaged in verious types of trade and commerce.

Castes

There has been no castewise enumeration in the Census of 1951. Probably this was done with a view to discourage caste consciousness but the hold of the caste on Indian life is so deep that for various academic purposes castewise figures would have been quite interesting particularly because of the impact on the rigours of the caste system. Castes have not become extinct from the district by any means. The traditional division of occupations according to caste, has, however, been in the melting pot and untouchability is loosening its hold more by social education than by law.

The last castewise enumeration was done in 1931 Census. In 1941 Census owing to war exigency this along with many other tables were omitted. As mentioned before castewise enumeration was deliberately dropped in 1951 Census. The castewise figures in 1931 Census are not quoted as they also contain the figures for Madhipura and Supaul Subdivisions which are not in Bhagalpur district now.

A brief discussion on the principal castes will be of interest to show the particular occupational role some of these castes play. Most of the castes follow particular professions. The trend is now on the decline.

The following are the principal castes and communities in the district—Brahmans, Bhumihars, Kayasthas, Rajputs, Koeris and Kurmis, Ahirs or Gwalas, Banias, Banpars, Chamars, Dhanuks and Kahars, Dhobis, Doms, Dosadhs, Hajam, Kewats, Musahars, Paharias, Santhals, Tantis, Muslim, etc.

**Brahmans.*—The hereditary occupation of Brahmans is priesthood but *owing to the changes in the economic trends many of*

*See Hunter's statistical Account of Bengal (Vol. XIV) PP. 54—61.

them have now taken to cultivation and service as a means of livelihood. The main sections among the Brahmans are Kancujia, Maithil, Gour and Sakaldwipi. There are other subdivisions. The previous caste rigidity and exclusiveness among the Brahmans have now liquidated.

Bhumihars.—Among the Bhumihars of the district, there are a few families who formerly had zamindaries and they had an aristocratic bearing. They are hard-working, clever and polished in talk and behaviour. Many of them have taken up professions like law, medical etc., besides cultivation or business.

Kayasthas.—At one time most of the service-holders were recruited from this community. Kayasthas normally go in for schooling and for generations they have been in the forefront in leading professions. There are only a few Kayasthas who actually till the field by themselves. Most of them would normally employ ploughmen.

Among Kayasthas there are sub-sects also and formerly there could be no inter-marriage among them. But now marriage between the inter-caste of Kayasthas is taking place.

Rarhy Kayasthas and Rarhy Community.—This Community is peculiar to this district and needs special mention. In Bengal there are two types of Kayasthas—Uttar Rarhy Kayastha and Dakshina Rarhy Kayastha. There was restriction of marriages between the two of them but this rigidity is now disappearing.

In the 12th century during the rule of Raja Lakshmi Sen the present districts of Birbhum, Burdwan, Murshidabad, Bankura, Hooghly - now in West Bengal—and Santhal Parganas in Bihar form Rarh. The inhabitants on its northern portion were called Uttar Rarhys.

The first flow of migration of the Uttar Rarhy Community in Bihar commenced in the twelfth century when Raja Bat Mitra, a Uttar Rarhy Kayastha, was deputed as Governor of Bihar by Ballal Sen, the then King of Bengal. He made Patherghatta, about three miles north of Colgong railway station as his capital. There he installed an image of Lord Shiva on the hillock on the bank of the river Ganga. This deity is called Bateshwarnath Mahadeva. It is claimed that this place was the seat of Vikramshila University.

The second flow of migration was in the 14th century during the reign period of Raja Ganesh Dutta, a Uttar Rarhy Kayastha with his headquarters at Dinajpur. Many Uttar Rarhys were deputed by him as State Officials who settled in some parts of the

Bhagalpur division. But the first and second flows of migration were not substantial.

But in the 15th century there was a third flow of migration and this time many families came and settled in Bhagalpur district. An illustrious Uttar Rarhy Kayastha, Thak Dutta, was appointed as a Kanungo (Collector Surveyor) by the Emperor of Delhi. He made his headquarters at Bandhara near Amarpur Police-Station in the district of Bhagalpur which is still known as the Takht Bandhara. He settled at a place near his headquarters which was named "Duttabati". He was succeeded in his office by his son-in-law, Shri Ram Ghosh, by a *Firman* in 1604 during the reign period of Akbar and since thereafter the office of the Kanungo became hereditary. He settled near Duttabati and this place was renamed "Ghoshpur". Thereafter he shifted to the present village Dumrama, a mile off to the north. The emperor of Delhi, Jalaluddin Akbar in 1604, confirmed the hereditary title of "Mahashay' on Sri Ram Ghosh, the founder of the Mahashay family of Bhagalpur.

In those days there was no easy means of communication except by the river Ganga. Many of the Uttar Rarhy Kayasthas who were appointed officials had to come to Bhagalpur district, and settle in the interior villages mostly in the Banka Subdivision. They acquired large properties in the shape of zamindaris and *Jote* lands. Gradually there was expansion, but owing to the social and religious considerations these immigrants brought Rarhy Brahmans whose number also increased gradually. They also acquired landed properties. Thus the Uttar Rarhy Kayasthas and Rarhy Brahmans came to form a somewhat separate community.

At present this community resides in about 130 villages of the various districts in the Bhagalpur Division. Being more or less out of touch of town life and having lost practically all connections from Bengal, the Rarhy community began to speak a local dialect *"Chhikka-Chhikki"* which is a mixture of Bengali and Hindi languages and became absorbed in the local population.

During the British Rule in the early parts of the nineteenth century there was another flow of migration from Bengal of Uttar Rarhy Kayasthas and other castes to Bhagalpur and other principal towns of Bihar. These families mostly settled in the town areas. They generally became known as domiciled Bengalis. Many top ranking lawyers and doctors in addition to Government servants, professors and teachers from this class of new-settlers made Bhagalpur and other towns in Bihar their permanent abode and gradually lost their active connection with Bengal.

The *"Chhikka-Chhikki"* speaking Uttar Rarhy Kayasthas and Rarhy Brahmans whose ancestors had migrated to Bhagalpur and to the other districts of Bhagalpur Division several centuries ago, had completely identified themselves and have been absorbed in the local population. But they were also regarded as "Domiciled Bengalis" simply because they hold the surnames of "Ghosh", "Dutt" "Das" etc. like the new flow of Bengalis.

The Domicile rules were enforced by the State Government on them also and there was a great "Bengali-Bihari" controversy which created some bitterness in 1937-38. This community had to struggle hard for being called the natives of Bihar. The matter was taken to the Congress Working Committee which nominated Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the sole arbitrator of the Bengali-Bihari question. Shri Manindra Chandra Ghose, a lawyer of Bhagalpur town, was invited by Dr. Prasad to attend the conference at Wardha as the representative of the Rarhy Community. Bihar Government and other Associations were also invited to participate in it.

The award of Dr. Rajendra Prasad met with general approval and was adopted by the Congress Working Committee. There was some delay in implementing the award but ultimately the Bihar Government, in the Appointment Department, issued a circular in their Memo. no. 2312 A., dated 22nd March, 1949, declaring the members of the Rarhy Community as "Natives of the State."

Rajputs.—This community is found scattered practically all over the district. Among the Rajputs the sub-sects are very large such as Udayvanshi, Rajvanshi, Suryavanshi, etc. Some sub-sects consider themselves to be higher than other sub-sects This barrier is now on liquidation and marriages between the sub-sects are taking place. Rajputs have cultivation, zamindari and services for their livelihood. After abolition of zamindari some of them have taken to business also. They are very conscious of their origin and affiliations with the Rajputs of other parts of Bihar and beyond the State.

The Banias.—Banias of different sects are to be found in Bhagalpur district, *viz.*, Kasera, Kasodan. Suri, Toli, Kesarbani, Thathera, Sonar and Lohar. It is said that the sects like Kasera, Kasodan, Suri and Teli migrated to Bhagalpur from Shahabad district during the movement of 1857. There are large pockets of them at Colgong, Banka, and in Bhagalpur towns besides a scattered population in the rural areas.

All the said sects are businessmen carrying different kinds of trade. Kaseras sell utensils of different kinds either by holding a shop in the town or village or by hawking They are cultivators and some of them are ex-zamindars. A few of them have adopted other professions like law, medical, etc. Kasodans deal in spices

and hardwares. Some of them are cultivators and also ex-zamindars; Suris, Telis and Kesarbani mostly deal in grains and a few of them are cultivators and ex-zamindars.

They follow the orthodox Hindu religion but some of them are followers of the Arya Samaj. All of them, except Arya Samajis worship different deities. Most of them worship their family deity known as *Ghar Gosain*. Besides they worship goddess Durga, Sati, etc. God Vishwakarma is worshipped by Sonars and Lohars, etc.

The inter-caste relation is cordial. There is marriage restriction in the sub-sects. Exogamous marriage within the sub-caste is strictly prohibited. There is, however, laxity in this taboo so far as widow marriage is concerned. Polygamy is also prevalent in their society which is allowed only when a wife happens to be barren or suffering from a contagious disease, etc. The incidence of literacy among Banias of Bhagalpur appears to be very low.

Koeris and Kurmis.—The Koeris and Kurmis are essentially cultivators and as a class are industrious and peaceful. Near big towns they act as market gardeners and show considerable enterprise. No doubt, Kurmis are also good cultivators of the district and both form the backbone of the agricultural economy of the district but Kurmis are more educated and several of them have taken up various types of professions like law, medical, business, etc. They are extremely hardworking and persevering in their avocations. Generally they possess a good physique.

Ahirs.—They are known as Gopes or Gwalas also. From the point of numerical strength they outnumber all other castes and are practically found all over the district. They are mostly to be found on the banks of the river Ganga probably because the excellent grazing lands near the river had attracted the Ahirs to settle down as at one time their principal occupation was rearing of cattle. The number of Ahir or Gwala cultivators is quite large and a good percentage are substantial cultivators. They are divided into four different sub-castes—Majraut, Kishnaut, Goria and Kanaujia. The Kishnauts prefer a claim of precedence over others on the tradition that Lord Krishna was born in their sub-caste. Kanaujia Gwalas are not much in the district. They are invaluable for agricultural economy of the district. The incidence of literacy among them is not so high but some of them who are educated have taken up other professions also. The Ahirs are now getting politically conscious and have been organising themselves for their rights.

Banpar.—The last District Gazetteer (1911) has not mentioned about this caste but their number is not insignificant in the

district. They belong to the class of fishermen, such as, Mallah, Kaibrata, Kewat and has been enlisted as members of the Backward class. They trace their origin from a man who after killing his mother in rash got refuge in a forest. They mostly marry among themselves but efforts are being made by them to assimilate with other classes of fishermen. They were formerly engaged mainly in fishing and sailing boats but with the scarcity of proper facilities for taking *ghats* on lease, they have come to adopt different professions. They are mostly found in the Colgong area and they work hard on the *ghats* and carry heavy loads. They are of strong physique. Their women are quite active and labour hard in the fields. Banpars of rural areas are agriculturists and agricultural labourers. Incidence of literacy is very poor.

Barhi.—This community is evenly distributed all over the district. The Barhis are by profession artisans and they generally make agricultural implements for the villagers and are paid in the villages both in cash and kind. The Barhis in the towns have a busy time in making furniture, doors, windows, etc. for new constructions.

Dhanuk and Kahar.—Dhanuks and Kahars both belong to Backward Classes and are largely recruited as servants in households. Dhanuks and Kahars used to be employed as palanquin bearers but palanquins have become rare now. There are also some cultivators among them. Quite a large number of these communities have gone to Calcutta and other places for their livelihood. They are now getting allergic to domestic chores and taking to other kinds of professions.

Dhobi.—Dhobis are found in almost all the villages and their number in the town is on the increase. In the towns they have opened laundries. In the rural areas Dhobis are mostly paid in kind during the time of harvest. They also earn good income from the customary allowances (*Britis*) during the time of funeral, marriage and other social ceremonies. But in the towns they are paid in cash. Besides wage earners, they are also agriculturists. Both males and females are wage earners. The washermen in the urban areas are now forming unions or a strong caste-panchayat and will not wash or iron clothes on particular days. Their caste-panchayats have a great hold on the members and would often inflict punishment for breaches of their conventions. Drinking is their curse.

Dom.—There are two types of Doms in the district known as Supa and Domsi. They breed pigs, make bamboo wares and also work as labourers. They used to be much addicted to liquor but the incidence is going down. Some of them have started

studying in schools. With education there can be no doubt that they will be an asset with the robust figures and strong commonsense. The Doms are getting class conscious now.

Dosadh.—The last District Gazetteer (1911) by J. Byrne, regarding this caste mentions as follows:—

> "The Dosadhs are very low caste—swineherds by traditional occupation. They also supply large numbers of labourers, and the post of village Chowkidar is almost invariably held by a Dosadh. They were largely professional thieves and dacoits, but are reported to be giving up their predatory habits."

These remarks are quoted to bring out the fact that they do not apply now even if they were correct before. They are now classified as a Scheduled Caste. They are still being employed as village chowkidars but there is no stigma of habitual theft. Some are also cultivators and the rest labourers. They also rear cattle. Keeping of pigs is going out. Their women supplement the income of the family by working as labourers. In the towns many Dosadhs get employment as cooks or bearers. They are now a progressive section and with proper schooling, they will be as good as any other educated community.

Hajams.—The Hajams are now included in the Constitution under Backward Classes and are also known as *Nai* and *Thakur*. They have earned the reputation of being clever. Their chief profession is shaving but some are also good cultivators and rear cattle. They used to play a much more important role for bringing about marriages among Hindus and at the actual marriages. Their role during the death of man was important. But with modern ideas their previous role is on the wane. In some of the villages Hajams practise a rude form of unscientific surgery. Several of them now work in hair-cutting saloons and some of them even own such saloons. The incidence of literacy among them is poor.

Kewats.—Kewats belong to the Backward Classes under the Constitution. They are traditionally fishermen and ply boats. They are mostly found on the both sides of the river Ganga. Many of them have left their traditional profession and have taken up agriculture or other professions.

Musahars.—The Musahars are notified Scheduled Castes and their number in the district is not insignificant. Essentially most of them are within lands and lead a precarious existence. They tame pigs, hens and cocks. They are very eclectic in their food and relish rats and snails. Attempts are being made to educate them.

Drinking and gambling are their common recreation. Child marriage, widow marriage, and divorce are common among them.

Rai Bhuiya 'Ghatwals.—The actual number of Rai Bhuiya Ghatwals as an important class of agriculturist labourers in this district is not known and they claim that they are one lakh strong. They are distributed over different parts of Sadar and Banka Subdivisions. They do not live in pockets close to one another and are scattered in small numbers. An investigation was made at villages Pithamba, Khemasar, Shasan, Dudhiari, Baijnathpur and Rega in Banka Subdivision in connection with a claim that they may be enumerated in the list as Scheduled Tribes. The method of participant observation was applied and the conclusion arrived at was that they cannot be classed as a tribal.

As regards physical appearance they resemble the Mushahars with a dark, well formed body and physiognomy. The name of the class indicates that they probably worked as Ghatwals to guard the hill passes. Their social customs are the ordinary customs of the Hindus like the *Chattis*, *Mundan*, *Sataisa*. The Rai Bhuiya Ghatwals speak *Chhikka-Chhikki* dialect which is a mixture of Hindi, Bengali and Maithili. Their ornaments, food habits, household are like those of an ordinary Hindu of the village of moderate means. Regarding marriage they observe Hindu customs and their marriages are solemnised by the Brahmins. The Rai Bhuiya Ghatwals observe all the Hindu festivals like Basant Panchami, Holi, Durga Puja, Lakshmi Puja, Dewali. They do not have the totems and taboos of the tribals nor do they have the dormitory system for the young and married boys and girls. Their funeral rites are performed by Brahmins.

As regards the economic condition almost all of them are financially handicapped. They are either small agriculturists with land or sell their labour. They may be described as a Backward Class but they cannot be treated as a Scheduled Tribe.

Paharias.— The Paharias belong to the Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution. There are Paharias at Kashra about two and half miles east of Colgong-Atre, Muni Baba Pahar and at Gangal Dar (Colgong P.-S.) and some other villages. It is said that their forefathers were the disciples of the great Atre Muni. They construct beautiful huts painted with coloured earth or soft coloured stone. They reside on hill tops and keep cows and dogs. They live on jungle fruits and roots such as jack, *mahua*, mango and meat of deer, cat, snake, wild boars, jackals, porcupines and birds. They collect bones and sell them in nearby markets. They do not take beef. They are good cultivators.

They are healthy, bold and comparatively immune to diseases. They still lead nomadic life and would normally change their

place of residence after some time when food has become scarce in the area.

Rabidas.—Usually called Chamars they are by occupation makers of footwear, cultivators or labourers. They are a notified Scheduled Caste. In the villages they are entitled by custom to the hides of all cattle that die. In the past they were often suspected of poisoning cattle. They make and supply shoes, whipthongs, drum-heads, etc. The services of the women-folk *Chamain*, are frequently requisitioned as midwife although they are untrained and follow crude methods. Hardworking and simple minded, they are now quite progressive in spite of poor incidence of literacy and if given opportunity they could equal any other community.

Santhals.—The Santhals have been notified as Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution. Santhals are mostly to be found in Katoria, Pirpainty, Banka, Belhar, Shyambazar, Visura Baunsi and other villages in Bhagalpur district. They have been much influenced by the Christian missions and many of them have been converted. Due to impact of modern times, their culture is changing.

They differ from Paharias in respect of dress, food, religion, etc. Santhals wear *dhoti*, *sari*, *blouse*, *shirt*, *ganji*, etc., but Paharia males mostly wear a loin-cloth. They live on the bottom of the hill whereas Paharias live on the top of hills.

Tantis.—The tantis are in the list of the Backward Classes and they are to be found throughout the district. Essentially, weavers, some of them have cultivation also. There has been a great demand for handloom cloth and the Tantis are quite busy. They are now organising themselves into professional guilds. The State Government have taken steps to market their excellent produce both interior and outside the country.

Muslims.—Among the Muslims also there are sects and sub-sects. The predominant percentage is of Sunnis. The number of Shia Muslims in this district is not inconsiderable. There are a large number of Ansaris who are by profession weavers. There are Ahmadyya Muslims also in this district. There are some villages which have a pocket of strong Muslim community.

The Ahmadyyas.—The Ahmadyya is a spiritual and moral movement of peace and goodwill in Islam. This movement was sponsored by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Quadian, a village in district Gurudaspur, East Punjab. To the Ahmadyyas he was a prophet of this age. The Ahmadyyas believe in the truth of all religions.

Quadian is the headquarters of the Ahmadyyas. Sady Anjuman Ahmadyya, Quadian, is registered administrative body governing the Ahmady Muslims of India in their moral, social and religious activities.

The Ahmadyya movement in Bihar was launched by Hazarat Hussain Ali Saheb of Bhagalpur who was a companion of Hazarat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, and was taken as a saint by the Ahmadyyas. The Ahmadyyas of Bihar are mostly located in Monghyr and Bhagalpur districts and a few scattered in other districts of Bihar. In Bhagalpur district there are Ahmadyyas in mohallas Barehpura, Ramsar, Tatarpur and in some villages like Khampur Milki, Chutia Belari etc. Their total population in the Bhagalpur district is approximately 500 to 700.

So far the manners and customs of the Ahmadyyas are concerned there is nothing exclusive to them. *Parda* system among the Ahmadyyas is not as rigid as it was some time before. Their relationship with other Muslims and Hindus is cordial.

So far as marriage and morals are concerned, monogamy is prevalent except on grounds of ill health and a person suffering from a contagious disease. No doubt polygamy is allowed in particular circumstances such as if the woman has proved herself barren.

The pronouncement of the marriage ceremony in the community appears to be peculiar. It is pronounced in the absence of both the parties (bride and bridegroom) with the help of a written consent before the Quazi. The pronouncement takes place in the presence of the witnesses. The marriage is performed without any pomp and grandeur.

The Ahmadyya Muslims are peace-loving and law-abiding. They believe in loyalty to the Government they live under. They believe in social justice with self and community discipline and non-violence.

Missionary work is done by them The mission work is not emphatic about conversions. They believe in spreading piety and love of mankind. The Ahmadyya Muslims are generally literate. They carry on much literary work silently. The cultural standard of Ahmadyya Muslims is high.

Christians

The Christians have been recorded at a small figure of 421 in the census of 1951*. An investigation made in July, 1961

*District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur, 1951, pp 84-85.

disclosed that the total population of Christians both Catholic and Protestant is at least 958, i.e., 398 Protestants and 560 Catholics. The Christians though a small community numerically have had an interesting story and have influenced the educational and cultural standard in the district.

The origin of what is now the Diocese of Bhagalpur can be traced back to the days of the East India Company, which in June 1678 appointed the Rev. John Evans as Chaplain to its employees in "the Bay". The main duties of the Chaplains and the other pastors was to minister to the workers in the factories in Bihar and elsewhere. As journeys to Patna were then made more by the river and Bhagalpur was an excellent halting place, the Church here flourished. The employees of the East India Company, indigo planters, Government employees and strong Anglo-Indian and Indian Railway community supplied a continuous flock. The Churches were built and Chaplains maintained by the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment, the Military, the railway administration or through funds raised within the Church itself.

When the Diocese of Bhagalpur was founded in 1843 there was an Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment (I. E. E.) Chaplain stationed at Patna, a military Chaplain at Dinapur, a railway Chaplain at Jamalpur and a diocesan Chaplain at Muzaffarpur, and Chaplains and missionaries alike were ministering to small English-speaking congregations in a large number of other centres. In 1823, Bishop Heber was consecrated as the Bishop of Calcutta. In the following year he toured northern India, touching at Rajmahal, where he met some Paharias from the neighbouring hills and Bhagalpur. At his instance, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in 1826 sent the Rev. T. Christian to Bhagalpur to commence work among the Paharias; but after only twelve months he and his wife both died of jungle fever within a few weeks of each other, and the work lapsed—indeed it was not until 1860 that the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel founded in England in 1701, sent another missionary to the area in the person of the Rev. Gerwin Jones, who is now stationed at the large railway centre of Jamalpur.

Christ Church, Bhagalpur.—G. F. Brown, Officiating Commissioner of Revenue, Bhagalpur (1837) and Commissioner of Revenue, Bhagalpur, 1846, had purchased in 1843 a parcel of land measuring 13 *bighas* and 6 *biswas* and built a church on the land. The *jama* of the land Rs. 9-2-5 pies per annum was remitted by the Governor of Bengal on 27th January 1848. Before leaving India, G. F. Brown sold all his right, title and interest by a deed, dated 8th January, 1857, in presence of R. B. Ferquhasan of Bengal Civil Service and Catherine J. Brown to the venerable the Archdeacon of Calcutta.

This Church known as the Christ Church at Bhagalpur is opposite the Sadar Hospital. It used to be maintained by the Ecclesiastical Department of the Government at State expense along with other such churches from funds provided under "32-Ecclesiastical". This Anglican Church along with other churches according to the Circular no. Eccl—472/D.-2(*b*), Government of India, Ministry of Defence, dated the 23rd March, 1948 was taken off the Schedule of Churches to be maintained at State expenditure. It was decided that all Anglican Churches included in the list of maintained Churches which form the Second Schedule to the Indian Church Act, 1927 will be removed from the list from 1st April, 1948 and will not be maintained after the 31st March, 1948. A Gazette notification no. 541-A, dated March 27, 1948 followed. The Bhagalpur Church was handed over and is now maintained by the Indian Church Trustees. The Diocese of Bhagalpur has the Right Reverend Bishop of Bhagalpur as the Chairman and governs the parsonages of Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Bankipur, etc. It was under the *Diocese* of Calcutta before.

Christ Church, Bhagalpur now the pro-Cathedral of the Diocese, was dedicated in 1845, by one of the leading lay members of the congregation being the Commissioner, Mr. Brown, a son of the Rev. D. Brown who was Chaplain of the Old Mission Church, Calcutta from 1787 to 1812. In 1848 the Chaplain of Bhagalpur, the Rev. Mr. Vaux wrote to the Secretary of the Church Missionary Society in Calcutta, pleading the need of Bihar, and especially for the Paharias and Santhals, asking for a missionary to be sent there, and promising that the local congregation would provide a house and a school building, and pay for the expenses of a school. The response of the Church Missionary Society (C.M.S.) in England was to send to Bhagalpur the Rev. E. Droese, a German Missionary who had been working in India since 1842 with the Berlin Mission, and had recently been ordained by Bishop Wilson of Calcutta. But the Society made it clear that they were opening this work in Bhagalpur purely on an experimental basis, and that they were not accepting financial responsibility for anything other than the missionary's salary. In April 1850 Mr. Droese and his wife landed from the river Ganga at Narga, where the Bishop of Bhagalpur's compound is now situated; and so well the experiment succeeded that he remained in Bhagalpur for 36 years before retiring to take up fresh work in Mussoorie, while as early as 1856 the C. M. S. accepted full responsibility for his work, as the local congregation—which to begin with, has raised over Rs. 200 per month for this purpose—was no longer able to carry it, the original sponsors of the scheme having by that time all moved from Bhagalpur.

Mr. Droese leased some land at Champanagar, on the outskirts of Bhagalpur, which now forms part of the Bishop's compound,

and by the end of 1853 had built a bungalow which still exists. In the following year, St. Saviour's Church, Champanagar, was dedicated and he founded a primary school (the first privately managed school in Bhagalpur) and an orphanage. The school had indeed to be built up from nothing, for the first masters employed knew little except how to keep ordinary *bazar* accounts and to write a note in *Kaithi*, and they had to be taught to read the printed characters themselves before they could teach them to children. This novelty met with a protest and more than half of the pupils left the school, though many of them returned within a few weeks. Further opposition was encountered when Geography and Bible teachings were added to the syllabus, but the school lived it down. A girl's school started by Mrs. Droese met with difficulties and some pupils of other castes left when Paharia girls started to attend. These girls came from the families of Paharia soldiers belonging to the corps of Hill Rangers (founded by Augustus Cleveland, Collector, Bhagalpur from 1780 to 1784), who were stationed on the fort at Nathnagar.

Before Mr. Droese arrived in Bhagalpur, a Sunday School had been started for the children of these Paharia soldiers, and he soon found that the Paharias were more responsive than the people of other races whom he met. He devoted much of his time in cold weather every year to itinerating in the hills where the Paharias lived. He also opened a few schools and by 1859, there were twelve of these schools in existence, with 400 boys reading in them, staff and students alike being all non-Christians but by this time Mr. Droese himself was fully occupied by his work at Bhagalpur. Droese was one of the early pioneers of education in this district.

In 1897, a disastrous fire destroyed the bungalow in Champanagar compound in which all Mr. Droese's records and other Mission papers were kept, and on the place of which the Bishop's House, built a few years later, now stands. The year 1890 saw the arrival of another stalwart of the Mission, the Rev. J. A. Cullen; and during his first ten years of service he founded the Leper Home in Bhagalpur (which is administered by the Mission to Lepers, although the spiritual side of its activities remains under the supervision of the Diocese). This leper asylum is in the town of Bhagalpur, opposite T. N. B. College, Nathnagar. It is still running and recently in 1960 one female outdoor ward has been started within the premises of the hospital. A St. Luke's Church was established in 1910 within the compound of the hospital.

Further, in 1904, the Fraser Hostel at Jamalpur was founded for the benefit of boys from the Champanagar Orphanage employed in the East Indian Railway (now Eastern Railway) workshops

there. Mr Cullen went home on leave in 1914 but could not return to India because of the War and by 1918 he was adjudged too old to return, so his place was taken by the Rev. (later Canon) H. Perfect, who had been serving in the Mission since 1903. Among Mr. Perfect's other responsibilities was the post of Chaplain of Purnea; and when the Baptist Missionary Society relinquished its work in Purnea district in 1935, the C.M.S., Bihar Mission accepted responsibility for it. Within a few months, however, the C.M.S. decided that during the next few years it would withdraw all its support to the Bihar Mission, except of the Mission for its educational work. This decision brought to an end the evangelistic work of the Mission at many places, but the Indian Church itself has been able to maintain a tolerably adequate amount of pastoral work.

It is in any case, for its educational work that the C.M.S. at Bhagalpur has always been most widely known, and mention must be made of its two schools in the town of Bhagalpur.

(1) *The C. M. S. Boy's High School* is its most famous institution and the name of the late Bishop (later Canon) S. K. Tarafdar who was its Principal from 1909 to 1936, will for ever be associated with it. This school traces its origin back to the primary school which was opened at Champanagar in 1854 by Rev. E. Droese and which was raised to high standard and affiliated to Calcutta University in 1887. Owing to certain difficulties the High School classes were suspended for a time, but the school was re-affiliated in 1892. But there were still difficulties to be faced, largely due to the shortage of funds and the unsuitable location of the school, and at the turn of the century it seemed that it might be necessary to close it as a High School and reduce it to lower grade. However, it was decided to move the school nearer to the centre of the city, and in 1903 it was transferred under its new Principal the Rev. H. M. Moore, to a rented house in Adampur (a mahalla in the town of Bhagalpur) belonging to the Srinagar Raj, in a water-logged compound flanked by broken *jungly* land and with practically no road frontage. At that time, there were only 41 students on the roll, although the orphanage also had been transferred with the school from Champanagar; but despite its old and inadequate premises and the existence of more imposing schools in the neighbourhood, the school flourished, and despite the fact that the orphanage was moved back to Champanagar within a year, the number of pupils at the school rose by 1908 to 172. In 1905, Mr. Moore opened Commercial Classes in Shorthand, Typewriting and Book-keeping—a novel venture in those days—for the benefit of those students who were unable to go on to higher studies; and, although to begin with there were only 5 students, the number increased within four months to 26, and had risen further to 110 by the time Mr. Moore went on furlough in 1909.

It was not to be expected that the Missionaries alone take full and complete responsibility for steering the educational work by "imported" Principals. At this juncture the Mission did not hesitate handing over the responsibility to an Indian leader and so in 1909, the Principalship of the school was for the first time held by the Rev. S. K. Tarafdar, who remained incharge of the school until after his consecration as Assistant Bishop of Calcutta in 1935. It was during his 27 years as Principal that the school became one of the best schools in the State for discipline, standard of education and general bearing of the students.

When Mr. Tarafdar took charge, the school-property still consisted of the original house and its out-houses, which Mr. Moore had adapted for a hostel. During the following year, these buildings and the compound of 20 *bighas* of land in which they stood were bought by the C. M. S. from the Srinagar Kumars for little more than one-half of their actual value, most of the cost being provided by Mr. Moore from a fund which he had at his disposal. In 1911, the Bakhtiarpur Estate presented to the school as a coronation gift a plot of about nine *kathas* of land lying to the south of the present Principal's house, and an adjoining plot was purchased from Dr. Mukherjee of Barari, thus giving the school its imposing street frontage along Cleveland Road. The Government of the newly separated Province of Bihar not only sanctioned a greatly increased grant-in-aid to the school but also gave it large grants for building with the help of which, by 1914, *pucca* hostels for Hindu and Christian boys (now named after Bishop Tarafdar and Bishop Lenman respectively), and the Principal's house were built. A little later Babu Raghunandan Lal, a public-spirited Zamindar of Golaghat, Bhagalpur, donated a sum of Rs. 13,000 to the school, and with this and other donations, including another substantial grant from the Government, there was built in 1917 the spacious Raghunandan Hall, with its imposing clock tower and eight adjoining classrooms. Then in 1928 a two-storied building, and the the other eight first-floor classrooms were constructed. Meanwhile in 1921 Headmaster's quarters was built; in 1923, the school sick-room was constructed; in 1930, the School Chapel, accommodating about 200 persons was built; in 1936, a new quadrangle of ten earthquake-proof classrooms was constructed. This school has now been converted into a Higher Secondary School. The school has extra-curricular activities including National Cadet Corps, a school magazine, Boy Scouts, a museum etc.

(2) *The C. M. S. Boy's Middle School, Champanagar.*—After the return of the orphanage to Champanagar (already mentioned), Mrs. Perfect opened a small school there with seven little children as pupils. Two years later, the number of boys had risen to 42. In the following year (1909) it was raised to Upper Primary Standard, and in 1912 to Middle Vernacular. By that time, the

children were too crowded, and it was thought good to separate the girls from the boys; and the C. M. S. took over the Christian Mission's Orphanage at Deoghar, and the staff and the girls from Champanagar were transferred there and the present girls' boarding school founded. The Foley Hostel was built in 1927, and the school building completed two years later. The number of orphans was by then decreasing, though a number of Christian boys from poor houses, many of them from the Santhal Parganas, were being supported by the Mission in the Foley Hostel and reading in the school. But the shortage of funds, and the rise in prices during and after the second World War, led to a gradual reduction in the number of boys thus helped, and the hostel had to be closed. The school continues to draw a large number of students from the neighbourhood.

There are two cemetery grounds in the town of Bhagalpur—one at Tatarpur and the other at Champanagar.

The branch of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society is located in the town of Bhagalpur. It runs a C. E. Z. Mission Girls' High School located at Masakchak (Dr. Amulya Ghosh Road), two C. E. Z. M. Primary Schools located at Khalifabagh and Modinagar near Mirzan Hat in the town of Bhagalpur.

The Roman Catholic Community appears to have been in Bhagalpur much earlier than 1779. According to one record the first Church constructed in 1779 was built by Father Marco Della Tomba who came to India in 1756 and who later became prefect Apostolic of the Tibetan Mission. In 1806 there were in Bhagalpur only 30 Roman Catholic Christians and they were looked after by a visiting Missionary from Patna. The earliest extant registers back to 1829.

The first Church at Bhagalpur built in 1779 was destroyed by the great earthquake of 1897 and it was rebuilt by Father Cesary who was in charge of Bhagalpur from 1885 to 1901. In 1898 Bhagalpur was given its first resident priest in the person of Father John of Anzola. Father John at once set about collecting funds for a new chapel, the cost of which was estimated at Rs. 8,000 and in December, 1902 Bhagalpur's third and the present Church was blessed and dedicated to the immaculate conception by Dr. Charles Gentili. Eleven years later the present Mission Bungalow was also erected.

In 1911, Father John secured for his station services of three sisters of St. Joseph, chiefly for the Bhagalpur Sadar Hospital and for dispensary work out in the nearby villages. As there was no house, Father John built one for them.

Unfortunately later information is not at hand, but for the first two months of their work they cared for 1,479 patients, visited 64 villages and spent themselves for all who came to them. Three years later their Supervisoress, Mother Monica was presented with the Kaisar-i-Hind medal of the Second Class for "excellent work in the General Hospital.

In the year 1958 the Apostolic Carmelite Sisters of Mangalore came to Bhagalpur to open a school. The school teaches for the Cambridge standard and the present strength of the institution is 240.

In the year 1926 two schools, one for girls and the other for boys were established at Sahebganj (Bhagalpur). The schools were shortlived due to the earthquake of 1934 and were found unsafe for further use. The schools were transferred to Gokhla about 38 miles east of Bhagalpur in the district of Bhagalpur and is 3 miles from Mirza Chowki railway station. The two schools at Gokhla have reached the Middle School standard. The strength of the girls school at Gokhla is 200 and that of the boys is 400.

Besides the two schools at Gokhla there is also a small hospital of about 20 beds with a qualified Lady Doctor in charge. Many cases are attended to irrespective of caste or creed.

At Basmata (Belhar thana) a Mission was established in the year 1957. In that area there are two L. P. Schools functioning for boys and girls.

Harimohra (near Rajapokhar bungalow) is a Mission which was established in the year 1930 with a small L. P. School for boys and girls. This station has been rebuilt in the year 1956 with a Convent School of Middle Class standard. The school is under the efficient care and supervision of the Carmelite Sisters. The girl's school is a recognised institution with an enrolment of 220 girls. There is a dispensary which caters to all those who go there.

There is also a Church at Jaypur in the south of the district. Originally it was founded by the brethren of Christ Mission. Later it was handed over to the local Christians in the year 1947. Later the Church was transferred to the Roman Catholic Mission on 4th December, 1958 and it is used a villa. The number of the Catholics there is about 15. There is no resident Father.

There are Roman Catholic cemeteries at Bhagalpur near the Church at Sahebganj, Gokhla and Harimohra.

Brahmo Samaj.

Bhagalpur Brahmo Samaj was established on the 22nd February, 1864 by late Braja Kishore Basu, Naba Kumar Roy and Madhusudhan Sarkar. Later on, the late Dr. K.D. Ghosh, father of the great Aurobindo Ghosh and his brother late Sri, Bama Charan Ghosh joined. In 1868 late Nibaran Chandra Mukherjee* came and joined and was followed by others. In 1879-80 late Rev. Dinanath Mazumdar one of the Preachers settled here. In 1880 the Samaj building was constructed at the expense of late Raja Shib Chandra Banerjee.** In 1881, on the 11th *Phalgun*, the anniversary day of the Samaj, late Brahmanand Keshub Chandra Sen came for the dedication and opening ceremony. In 1886 the late Hari Sundar Basu joined the Samaj. Since then almost all the leaders and preachers of the Brahmo Samaj had on occasions come to Bhagalpur. They include Rev. Pratap Chandra Mazumdar, Gour Govind Ray, Sivanath Sastri, Rabindranath, Satish Chakravarti, Kshiti Mohan Sen, Prakas Chandra Roy, father of Dr. B.C. Roy, etc. The Bhagalpur Brahmo Samaj was, at one time, a main centre of the Brahmo Samaj activities in the country and helped considerably the cultural advancement of the district.

The starting of the Mokshada Girls, now Higher Secondary School, was one of the first activities of the Brahmos at Bhagalpur. It was started by Dr. K.D. Ghosh in 1868 as a primary school, known as the Bhagalpur Girls' Institution.

It may be said that the Brahmos were in a way pioneer in sponsoring female education, a caste class society and night schools for removing adult illiteracy.

On the 12th day of October 1916 late Nibaran Chandra Mukerjee, Secretary of the Bhagalpur Brahmo Samaj, executed and registered a trust deed of Bhagalpur Brahmo Samaj.

In the earthquake of 1934, the front portion of the *Mandir* was badly damaged, since then this was rebuilt and additions and alterations have been made to allow more space and on the two sides two covered verandahs have been added.

At one time there were quite a number of Brahmo families in Bhagalpur. At present their number is reduced to a few. But

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*Nibaran Chandra Mukherjee was Headmaster of Bhagalpur Zillah School. His is a distinguished family. One of his grandsons was the late P.C. Mukherjee, Chairman, Railway Board and another the late Air Marshal Subrato Mukherjee.

**Raja Shiba Chandra Banerji's other charities are to day seen in Mokshada Girls' School, Shivatarini Female Ward, Bhagalpur Water Works, etc.

the impact of Brahmoism in broad-basing the society, removal of caste system and propagation of theism on the society has been considerable. Several Bihari families had been converted to Brahmoism, such as those of Brahamdeo Narayan, Hazari Lall, Baldeva Narayan, Ram lall, Bechu Narayan, etc. There were at least two Muslim families headed by Dr. Abdul Ghaffar and Azim Saheb had been converted to Brahmoism.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Religious beliefs of the Hindus.—The Hindu religious faith is a mixture of animism, polytheism and monism. The followers of Dayanand Saraswati or Arya Samaj are believers of monism. The Brahmo Samajis believe in monotheism of Upanishada and discard image worship. Polytheism and animism are followed by the common mass. The Hindu religion is still pre-eminently ritualistic and the worship of gods is looked upon as the first duty of man. Oblation, prayer and recitation of the sacred hymns are part of the worship. The Hindus worship a legion of gods and godesses but the primary gods and godesses are Vishnu and his consort Lakshmi, Shiva and his consort Parvati, Saraswati, Ganesh, Durga and Mahavira. There are a large number of Hindu temples scattered throughout the district. Saivism seems to have had a great hold as is seen by the temple of Ajgaibi Nath Mahadeva at Sultanganj, Bateshwar Nath Mahadeva near Colgong and Burha Nath temple at Bhagalpur. These temples attract a huge number of devout Hindus during the months of *Srawan, Kartika Purnima, Shivaratri*, etc.

Besides these temples there are a number of sacred sites (*sthans*)—*Anupsthan, Ganoo Baba Sthan* etc., where *pujas* are offered, *Anupsthan* is 5 miles away from Bihpur. The *puja* is offered mainly by Brahmans but others also join. It is performed on every Monday and Friday. The popular belief is that evil spirits can be avoided by this worship. *Ganoo Baba Sthan* is situated at Tadhi near Baijani (Fulbaria) about 5½ miles south of Bhagalpur. There is one *Pipal Mahadeva Sthan* at Sujaganj in Bhagalpur town. The *Pipal* tree of this *Sthan* was cut down a few years back but yet it is known with the same name. This Mahadeva *Sthan* is visited by a lot of persons daily specially ladies of Marwari families.

Loke Puja is a particular feature of the district. This *Loke Puja* is a kind of community worship (*Sammilit Puja*) which is held in different villages by turn every year and the popular belief is that this will check epidemics at least for a year. This *Loke Puja* is celebrated in 8 or 9 different ways, each has separate hymns. The devotees of each group assemble together and sing.

Among nature gods *Agni* (Fire God), *Suryya* (Sun), *Sesa-nag* (Serpent God) and *Indra* (Rain God) are worshipped. There is

one more god *Hanumanji* or *Mahabiraji*, who is commonly worshipped. *Mahaviri Jhanda* or flag tied in a long bamboo is hoisted in the courtyard of the Hindus who worship *Mahavira* or *Hanuman.* On every Tuesday and Saturday this god is worshipped in local temples. The Mahaviri *Jhanda*. is hoisted on Ramanavmi day. *Mahaviri Jhanda* processions can be taken out in any part of the year.

There are Jain temples also in Bhagalpur and other places for the followers of Jainism. Recently a Sikh Gurudwara has been established in Bhagalpur. There are also one branch of Ramkrishna Mission, one Arya Samaj *Mandir* and one ninety years old Brahmo Samaj *Mandir* in the town of Bhagalpur. The Brahmo Samaj people were the pioneers for the abolition of casteism and for the spread of female education.

Apart from these *pujas* and worships different types of *pujas* are prevalent in different tribes, castes, etc. The Santhals worship Jogini Godess, Lila Mahadev, Burha-Burhi, etc. The offerings are generally rice, sweets, betal and betel nuts, etc. The Paharias worship *Kalimai*, *Durgamai* and their *Guru*. Their *Guru* is known as Rangadhari Gosain in a thatched house or on a raised platform with vermilion smeared on it. The offerings are rice, liquor, sweets, fowl, etc. Among Chamars, Rabidas, Lal Maharaj, Namdeb Bhagat and Bisahari are generally worshipped. *Sitalamai* (goddess of small-pox) is worshipped by Chamars, Dosadhs, Dhanuks and even Dhunias and sometimes Brahmans also join it. Musahars observe one Puja known as *Nathpuja*.

Bhagalpur is famous for *Behula puja*. There is a place at Champanagar knqwn as Behula *Sthan* where snakes are worshipped on Bisahari Day or Mansha *Puja*. This *Puja* takes place in the month of July every year attended by thousands of persons.

Tree worship.—Certain trees usually big sized like *pipal*, banyan, *amla*, *Neem*, etc., are worshipped by the villagers and mostly by women. The *pipal* tree is considered to be holy by the orthodox Hindus. Spirits are believed to live on *pipal* trees and they are worshipped if they happen to be in the village or outside it near a temple, *Devishthan*, etc. There are some people who regularly pour water at the root of *pipal* trees. Bahir *Puja* is performed under a mango tree. People believe that this worship would drive away any malady from the village. Particular trees are taken to be the abode of deities or evil spirits and hence they are worshipped. Women offer *puja* under such trees at the time of marriage and birth in the family. Some trees are worshipped for getting a child. This is an erotic idea.

Religious beliefs of the Muslims.—Monism is the cardinal principle of Islam and a devout Musalman has no other God but *Allah* and his *Rasul* or Messenger, the Prophet Mohammad. But a sort

of saint worship or *Pir* worship has become a common feature. A *pir's* tomb often becomes a place of pilgrimage. In Bhagalpur district there are several *Pir Dargahas*—Gaus Khan *Pir Dargah* near Bhagalpur Central Jail, Damaria *Pir* in Sujaganj, Neknam Saheb *Pir*, Bhikhanpur, Sajangi Malangi *Pir*, Asnanpur near T.N.B. College, Ghuran *Pir*, Sandy's Compound and the old *Pir* Khanjar Saheb, Khanjarpur in Bhagalpur town. There are few other *Pir Dargahas* also which are out of the Bhagalpur town such as Shah Kumari *Dargah* at Colgong, etc. These *Pir dargahs* are locally visited on the occasion of *Urs* ceremony. The devout Muslims keep awake for the whole night and after the recital of the *maulood*, the *chadar* or the sheet by which the tomb of the *Pir* is covered is changed.

The town of Bhagalpur and its suburbs contain a number of old and new mosques such as Shahjangi *Masjid*, Khalifabagh *Masjid*, Tatarpur *Masjid*, Maulanachak *Masjid*, etc.

Inter-caste Relations.

According to the *Census of India*, 1931 (Volume II, pp. 136 to 157, Bihar and Orissa, Part II Tables), Bhagalpur district has different castes like Babhan (Bhumihar), Bania, Chamar, Dhanuk, Dhobi, Dom (Hindu and Muslim), Dusadh, Gowala, Hajam, Hari, Jolaha (Muslim), Kahar, Kandu, Kayastha, Kewat, Koeri, Kumahar Mali, Mallah, Musahar, Pasi, Rajput, Tanti, Teli, Kamar, Bhuiya, Munda, Oraon and Santhal (Hindu, Christian and Tribal religion). Caste-wise population figures are available in 1931 census but at that time Bhagalpur district included the present Saharsa district also. The details of caste-wise figures of 1931 are given below*: —

Castes	Persons	Males	Females	Community
Gowala	374,677	191,310	183,367	Hindu.
Brahman	109,722	57,130	52,592	Ditto.
Chamar	107,534	52,852	54,682	Ditto
Musahar	99,592	50,197	49,395	Ditto.
Dhanuk	97,315	47,986	49,329	Ditto.
Koeri	90,238	45,635	44,603	Ditto.
Tanti (Tatwa)	88,745	43,472	45,273	Ditto.
Rajput .. .	69,052	39,895	29,157	Ditto.
Kewat	52,693	25,938	26,755	Ditto.
Hajam (Nai, Napit, Nai Brahman).	38,597	20,028	18,567	Ditto.
Santhal (Sadar and Banka sub-divisions).	28,551	14,643	13,908	Ditto.
Bania	23,912	12,568	11,344	Ditto.
Kayastha	21,893	11,704	10,189	Ditto.
Babhan	16,857	9,585	7,272	Ditto.

*Only numerically strong castewise figures are given (P.C.R.C.).

According to 1931 census Gowalas and the Brahmans are numerically strong in the district. Owing to war exigency caste-wise figures were not taken in 1941 census. From 1951 castewise figures have been eliminated as a matter of India Government policy. Hence, it is difficult to give the exact present population figure of the different castes. But according to the census of 1951 more than 55 per cent of the population is made of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. On investigations and local enquiries it was learnt that now Gowalas, Kurmis, and Koeris preponderate followed by the Brahmans. The number of Bhumihars, Rajputs and Kayasthas taken separately will be smaller than the population of the Brahmans. At present also all the castes given in 1931 census are found in the district. Among all these castes Brahmans, Bhumihars, Kayasthas, and Rajputs are treated as higher castes and the rest as lower castes according to the commonly accepted tradition about the myth of caste.

In Bhagalpur the people (of both rural and urban areas) in the lower rung of the ladder of caste system appear to have developed a certain sense of antagonism which comes to the force on the slightest provocation. This feeling breaks into caste tension when a person of a higher caste misbehaves with one of lower castes and the situation may even turn into riots or acrimonious quarrels with lasting effects between the members of the two castes. This becomes more evident at the time of elections.

Almost each community especially in lower caste such as Mallahs, Jolahas, Tantis, Barbers, Dhobis etc., have organisations (Caste *Panchayats*) of their own. It may be presumed that economic exploitations mostly drove them to form caste unions for caste-professions but not always. There are several domestic problems like adultery or social boycott, etc., which they do not want to discuss with others. The unions of Dhobis are very prominent in the towns of Bhagalpur, Colgong, Sultanganj, etc. In the recent decades some of these organisations have even advocated the taking of sacred thread.

Amongst the Muslims also the members of some sections like Jolahas, Dhudnias, Kasais, etc., have adopted surnames of "higher caste" Muslims and call themselves "Sheikhs", "Ansaris", "Mansuris or Rayeens", "Quarishis", etc. Village Puraini, P.-S. Bhagalpur Muffasil is an example of such trends. The use of the surname like "Sheikh", etc., is deprecated by Muslims who consider themselves superior.

The zamindari system was indirectly one of the main reasons for the spread of caste feeling in the district. The zamindars who

usually belonged to higher castes did not treat the lower caste people in the same manner as the higher caste tenants. The so-called lower caste tenants like Musahars, Doms, Dhobis, Chamars, Dosadhs, etc., were being treated differently and at times they had even to quit their respective villages. The lower caste men along with the so-called untouchables like Doms, Chamars, Dhobis, etc., were not allowed to enter the temples and other sacred places. Even in a community religious congregation like Durga *Puja*, etc., they were not allowed to sit with others. Economically also they were backward and almost forced to remain so. The zamindari system utilised them as labourers with or without land. The bulk of the agricultural labourer class came from such castes. The impact of the zamindari abolition has been to some extent a realignment and reassessment of the social value of the different strata of the population and particularly the so-called lower castes have been theoretically put at the same level along with others thus giving rise to a spirit of class and caste consciousness.

Previously franchise for the local bodies, State Assembly or Council or the Central Assembly was based on the restrictions of property tax, educational qualifications or communal representation, etc., and all this accounted for a low percentage of voters. Adult franchise, the great feature of 1952 election provided equal opportunities for men and women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes to exercise their right of votes both for local legislatures and the Parliament. It has been a great experiment. Now the so-called lower classes have been given a power which is apt to be misused if caste consciousness is the ruling factor. The introduction of adult franchise has, unfortunately, led to a strong caste consciousness especially in the rural areas. Caste-feeling in rural areas almost decides the fate of candidates in the elections. For instance it may be mentioned here that in the last General Election of 1957, in Bihpur-Naugachia, there were three contestants belonging to the three different parties, i.e., the Congress, Jan Sangh and Communist for the State Legislature. The Communist candidate won the election because of the friction amongst the Congress members, between the Brahmans and Bhumihar members. In this constituency the Brahman population is stronger than the Bhumihar. The Congress candidate was a Bhumihar and the Communist candidate was a Brahman. This shows that the election although contested on party basis was decided on caste basis. For Parliament Election in the same area there were three candidates belonging to the Congress, Socialist and Jan Sangh parties. Here, the Congress candidate was a Brahman who bagged full support of his own caste men and his own caste-men of the other parties. If his own caste-men would not have supported it was difficult for the Congress candidate to win the election.

A recent investigation made at village Narayanpur, P.-S. Bihpur, in the north of the district, shows the same picture.

Numerically the Yadavas, Rayeens (Muslim) and Banias are strong at this village. There are other backward and Harijan Hindu caste like Dhobi, Dom, Chamar, Musahar, etc. They are looked down upon by the Yadavas and Banias. Rayeen Muslims do not have any bad feeling for the Harijans or low caste Hindus. In recent *Panchayat* election there had been a keen contest between two candidates belonging to the Jan Sangh and Congress parties for the post of *Gram Panchayat Mukhiya* and *Sarpanch*.

In *Mukhiya* election at Narayanpur both the candidates belonged to the same caste, Yadavas, but their candidature differed on party basis. So there was a contest on party basis but "sub-caste feelings" among the Yadavas came in. The Congress candidate belonged to the Manjraut sub-caste having the full support of the entire Muslim community who are the members of the Congress Party. He had also the support of almost the 40 per cent members of his own sub-caste. The Jan Sangh candidate belonged to the Goria sub-caste. The Jan Sangh candidate was defeated by 147 votes. This defeat led almost to a Hindu-Muslim riot but because of the local police, magistracy and a few influential persons the mischief was averted.

In *Sarpanch* election also there was contest between two candidates belonging to the Congress and Jan Sangh parties. The Congress candidate was a Rayeen Muslim but because of the support of the 40 per cent of the Yadavas and few others and men of his own community he came out successful.

At village Ghogha, P.-S. Colgong, district Bhagalpur, the Brahmans are in the majority. Recently in *Gram Panchayat Mukhiya* election there were two candidates. one Brahman and the other a Muslim. The Brahman candidate won the election because of the support of his own castemen and a few other Hindus. But at village Lakhpura in Banka subdivision in spite of the stronger Brahman population, Rajput candidates for both *Sarpanch* and *Mukhiya* came out successful because of the support of the members of Backward Classes. Here there was a bid to get the votes of the Backward Classes to tilt the balance.

The special educational and other facilities granted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and reservation of appointments to them in Government services have created a certain amount of bad blood between the people of higher castes and those of the lower castes. The higher caste people consider these facilities and reservations as an undue encroachment on their rights and opportunities. An example may be cited. During an investigation made at village Lakhpura, in Banka subdivision, it was observed that the Brahmans are more thickly populated than the Rajputs and Backward Classes. Their complaint was that even the poorest

Brahman had no facility for education to their children while the children of the well-to-do Harijans were receiving the facilities of free education, book-grants and scholarships. Similar views were expressed by the people of upper castes of villages, Jagdishpur and Ghogha, in Sadar subdivision. This sort of feeling in people of higher castes and a spirit of elation somewhat in the people of lower castes is fanning the tension which is almost a problem, almost like the communal problem of the British days.

This caste feeling is apparent in religious field also. There is a *Krishnasthan* at village Narayanpur on which members of Bania and Yadava castes have good hold. Harijans or untouchables are not allowed to enter the room where the image of Lord Krishna is placed on the occasion of *Janmastmi*. Harijans have a theoretical access due to the statute but they do not, as a rule, want to exercise the right to avoid troubles.

In social functions Banias, Yadavas and others do visit a Harijan's place, particularly if he is rich but they would not inter-dine. The Muslims who do not have any such restriction are more popular with the Harijans.

Caste-consciousness was found prominent at villages Chakrami, Mojama, Ganaul, etc. Even occupations which are mostly carried out by the Harijans like basket-making, shoe-making or rope-making are looked down upon and would not be resorted to by other castemen.

Casteism in its bad sense cannot be said to be a new social trend. Previously also, casteism did play a very important role in social, religious and economic life of the district. A higher caste man whether he is educated, cultured or rich, would have expected natural leadership in the village. A lower caste man, however, educated or rich he may be, would have to be a back bencher in any social assembly.

But now there is a realignment of social values to some extent in urban areas or towns or in some of the villages of the district. The higher or upper caste people have now no large majority and hold in the mufassil townships or in the villages. But the changes do not follow one and the same pattern. Somewhere they are on the right lines.

At village Pirpainty, in Sadar subdivision, there are mainly two communities—Hindu and Muslim. Among the Hindus there are various castes like Brahman, Rajput, Bhumihar, Bania, Chamar, Dom, Dhobi, etc. In spite of so many castes, Hindus maintain a good relation and a Harijan sits on the same *chaukie* with the member of a higher caste. Amongst Muslims there are Jolahas,

Kasais and Saiyads only. They also maintain a mutual good relationship. At village Puraini, P.-S. Bhagalpur Muffasil, there are both Hindus and Muslims. In spite of the fact that Muslims are numerically stronger than the Hindus, the inter-community relations are cordial. But such cordial social contacts are not normal yet in the majority of the villages.

In urban areas caste feeling is not so acute and may be said to be, somewhat, on the decline. There are only five towns in the district, namely, Bhagalpur, Banka, Sultanganj, Colgong and Naugachia. So far these towns are concerned, inter-caste tension appears to be liquidating. People of different castes do not hesitate to take food on a common table in the restaurants and hotels and no one worries about the caste of the cook. The rush and bid for livelihood do not leave much scope normally for caste-feelings. Some inter-caste marriages are also taking place in the towns. Civil marriages under registration between educated parties of different castes are coming into vogue. The facilities of communication and the presence of different types of people in villages or towns, labour and industrial problems have all helped liquidation of caste-tension. The labour and industrial population have no time to indulge in caste-tensions and through them the villages are also being broad-based. When they go to the villages they carry their ideas to the villagers.

A picture of inter-caste relations in a district could also be had by analysing the relations of a few "dominant" castes with some other "non-dominant" castes. As mentioned before in Bhagalpur district, Gowalas are numerically strong and Bhumihars are educationally forward. A discussion of the relationship of Gowalas and Bhumihars with other castes would be relevant.

Gowala and Kurmi

There is some difference of opinion regarding the respective social and caste position of the Gowala and Kurmi on caste hierarchy. Each of these castes regards itself higher than the other. At some places in the district a Kurmi is regarded higher and other places a Gowala is given a higher status because of their numerical majority. They participate in each other's social functions. They take cooked food at each other's place but they would not normally sit together at a feast in the same *panti* (same line).

Gowala and Chamar

The Chamars in the past, have been forced to be considered much lower than the Gowalas in caste status, and hence active participation of one caste in the social functions of the other to the extent of inter-dining is not seen.

In spite of the difference in their status, the Chamars and the Gowalas are usually friendly. This cordial relationship shows that even given a bad background the men of two castes of different status could be friendly.

Gowala and Hajam or Nai

The relationship of these two castes rests on their respective occupations. In the case of a child's birth in a Gowala family, the Hajam woman's services are required. In *Mundan* or head-shaving of the child the Nai shaves the head of the child for which he receives money and a *dhoti*.

At the marriage of a Gowala also the Nai has various functions still considered obligatory.

The Nais refuse to take cooked food from the Gowalas but they accept water from them and share their smoking, by using the same *chilam*.

Gowala and Brahman

There is apparently no basic ill-feeling among these two castes. In the case of a birth in a Gowala family a Brahman is called to note the time of birth and prepare the *Janmapatri* (horoscope) of the child; he also decides the most auspicious date and time for *Chhatthi*, the ceremony on the sixth day after the birth. In return the Brahman receives a *dakshina* (payment). He accepts only *pakka* invitation (where *puri*, *kachauri*, sweets prepared in *ghee* are served but not cooked rices, *dal*, or vegetables). A Brahman will accept rations (*sidha*) and would cook himself.

In *Mundan* ceremony of a Gowala boy, the Brahman decides the auspicious day and he also performs certain *pujas* at the time of *Mundan*. For this also he receives a *dakshina* and a *dhoti*. Both for the marriages and deaths a Brahman's services are necessary.

A Brahman goes for a *katha-path* or Satya Narain *Puja* at a Gowala's place. The Brahman accepts the *prashad* distributed by a Gowala. For this *katha-path* he accepts a *dakshina*.

A Gowala would normally be invited to a Brahman's place in a social function and would participate cooked food given there.

Bhumihar and Gowala

The smaller Bhumihar population think themselves to be of a superior status to the Gowalas. The incidence of education and

local influence are higher in the Bhumihars. The investigation shows that there is a thin screen of misunderstanding between them often erupting into a tension. This is so in spite of sharing each other's social functions. This tension has been very prominent whenever any political issues are involved.

Bhumihar and Kayastha

Kayasthas had been educationally and culturally advanced since long and commanded leadership because of their superior educational incidence.

Now that the Bhumihars are coming up educationally and had come to acquire sizeable holdings and zamindaris, they have developed a sort of allergy to the Kayasthas. This is mostly due to economic reasons and for the bid to get jobs and catch the leadership in the society and in the political field.

Kayasthas and Bhumihars freely mix socially and take food or water from each other's hand. In spite of this free social contact, a sense of jealousy has developed among the two castes. The Bhumihars have been able to oust the Kayasthas to some extent from the political field in the last one decade. They have also come in larger number in the local bodies.

Bhumihar and Brahman

Bhumihars now claim the same status in cast hierarchy with the Brahmans. This is due to the fact that the Bhumihars have now come up in education and have been able to get large landed properties. The hereditary occupation of Brahmans is priesthood but owing to the changes in the economic trends many of them have taken to cultivation as a means of livelihood while the number of service-holders among the Brahmans is also not negligible. The Bhumihars are mostly engaged in cultivation and the characteristic occupation of the caste is that of settled agriculturists. But due to spread of education and changes in economic trends they have now taken to intellectual professions such as law, medicine, etc., and now they possess high position in society.

Inter-dinning is common. Each caste participates in each other's social, religious and other ceremonies. It may be said that normally on the social plane the two castes do not display an allerygy to each other and mix freely but in the political plane or where economic questions are involved their relationship is fluid and will quickly align itself with any other caste to oust the other.

Bhumihars and Rajputs

Bhumihars and Rajputs are on somewhat equal footing and they participate in each other's social functions. Inter-dinning is

common among them. But on political issues they differ from each other and they make quick alliances with some other caste to oust the other.

General

The hangover of the spirit of the conqueror and the conquered may have been responsible for the difference in status of the different castes and other differences in society, but it is a fact that till western education started, ignorance was somewhat a bliss—and there was something of a loosely knit but not a conglomerated society. It was not a casteless democracy and the spirit infused by western education worked as a great fissiparous tendency and started liquidating the ignorant bliss of the loosely knit society and highlighted the sufferings of the lower castes. By that time in order to bring about a practical solution to the social demands, every caste had developed a number of sub-castes differing in status and also imposing taboos against each other. The society was no longer knit by a common workable bond and in no time the influence of western education revealed the weakness of the Indian society and casteism received a new interpretation.

But western education had been preceded or supported by religious and social reformers like Guru Nanak, Kabir, Ramanand, Shri Chaitanya, Tulsi Das, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Sita Ram Saran Bhagawan Prasad, etc. The cult of Vaisnavism had struck roots in Bihar and particularly in Bhagalpur district through the efforts of Sita Ram Saran Bhagawan Prasad who was a Deputy Inspector of Schools in Bhagalpur in the last decade of the 19th century. The Muslim dervishes and saints had not only been able to consolidate the spirit of qoranic equality among the Muslims without any difference in economic status but they had also been able to touch the fringe of the solidarity of Hindu casteism and break it to some extent in the periphery of the intellectual and religious thinking. There grew up *Kadam Rasuls* and *Dargahs* where both Hindus and Muslims offered oblations. Quite a number of graves of Muslim *Pirs* came to be held in high esteem by the Hindus throughout the country. Bhagalpur was at one time distinctly under great Muslim influence. The Muslim names of a number of important mahallas in Bhagalpur town are suggestive. Urdu and Persian were commonly learnt by the Hindus four decades back and *unani* system of medicine was resorted to by the Hindus also.

But unfortunately there was also a wave of aggressive propaganda for Hinduism by Swami Shradhanand and others in our own times and Bhagalpur with other districts in Bihar had the impact. Hinduism was sought to be made into an almost a militant creed. The result was the two creeds parted their ways—the beautiful

and noble Muharrum *tajias* were no longer carried by Hindus, the *akharas* of the Muslims in Muharrum were deserted by the Hindus and *Gorakshani Sabhas*, *Gopashtami* processions, *Mahabiri Jhandahs* and *Bir Hanuman Puja* received a greater encouragement. Much of the efforts of the earlier Hindu and Muslim social and religious reformers were set at naught.

But there have been other sources of immense good. The Christian Missionaries pioneered western education and their institutions in Bhagalpur district are land-marks to be proud of. Their schools and the T. N. J. College, the second college to be started in Bihar State were somewhat of antidotes to caste virus. The early pioneers of the Brahmo Samaj in Bhagalpur district were also quite successful in removing caste barriers. There were even some Muslim families of Bhagalpur who were converted into Brahmoism. Religious teaching at the primary schools to both Hindus and Muslims was done as a matter of routine earlier and thereby a great religious toleration was inculcated. The boys and girls of the two communities and of all castes who came to primary schools were taught a consciousness that one has the liberty to follow one's religion without super-imposing on others and that the same liberty must be allowed to the other co-religious or castemen. The Hindus and Muslims of this district did live in peace and harmony and formed one people before when they did not have to surrender any inviolable rights or customs. Religious differences and casteism were there but did not have any tension.

Bhagalpur district is unique in one respect : there is a confluence of religious trends here. Different phases of Hinduism along with Vaisnavism have offered a common platform to the Hindus. *Ram Charitra Manas* is a great binding factor. The caste-men of different status all used to congregrate to hear *Ram Charitra Manas* or for Satyanarain *Puja*. The Muslims are also culturally advanced bearing a rich heritage. The Ahmadyyas with the rich tradition have flourished in this district in spite of their many differences with other Muslims. Language is a great binding factor. The Bengalis who have made Bhagalpur district their home for centuries have adopted a dialect known as *Chhikka-chhikhi* which is a mixture of Hindi, Bengali or Maithili. Some of the noble men of Bhagalpur district whether Bengalis or Biharis or Marwaris have made endowments worth lacs for the advancement of the district. The munificience of Raja Shiva Chandra Banerji, the great Tarak Nath Mahashay, Tej Narain Singh, the Banaili Raj family and others have contributed to Bhagalpur's present. They never thought of differences of caste and never wanted their own caste-men only to prosper on their charities. The contribution of Hindi or Bengali literary men of Bhagalpur district has been unique and is still continuing.

The analysis of caste-relations given before luckily does not show a common or rigid pattern. If casteism has received the stage of tension somewhere due to political issues or elections, it has melted into harmony at other places. The present inter-caste relations are definitely on the melting point. The social laws and the set up of the Welfare Government are bound to accelerate the liquidation of the worst effects of casteism. The analysis is meant not for highlighting the differences but to show the trends so that one may have an introspection. With the great cultural heritage behind, Bhagalpur district is expected to grow out of the present picture quite soon.

INTER-COMMUNAL RELATIONS

The two major communities, Hindus and Muslims have generally lived in peace and amity. They share the festivaities of many of their religious ceremonies. There was, however, a bad instance of communal tension in Bhagalpur district in 1946. A coverage of this incidence is necessary as a warning for the future. The general communal tension which was common to the entire province in that year received pointedness because of the events that followed the Direct Action Day in Calcutta marked by the killing of a large number of men including some Hindu Biharis. The exodus from Calcutta spread exaggerated stories. The great Calcutta killing was immediately followed by the carnage in Noakhali now in East Pakistan. The feelings of the entire Hindu community of the district was very much affected and there was a move for the non-observance of Diwali as a mark of frustration, resentment and sympathy. The feelings of the Hindus were made sore by the cold reception of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in his tours in the frontal tribal areas, an attempt to shoot Rajagopalachari in Delhi, circulation of manuscript copies of a document said to be the programme of Direct Action of the Muslim League Council and the Vernacular Press.

A few local factors unfortunately occurred. The local Muslim League held a black flag demonstration on 2nd September 1946 when the Interim Government assumed office. The Arya Samajists held a meeting strongly resenting the marriage of a Hindu woman to a Mohammadan at Mojahidpur. On 26th October 1946 some Muslims of Jogsar objected to a Kali procession by a certain route. This delicate situation was however settled. On the same day (26th October 1946) a communal riot broke out at village English Chichraum, P.-S. Sultanganj in which a Kali procession was attacked by a Muslim mob in broad day light and in presence of the Subdivisional Officer, Sadar at the village. The Kali image was damaged and was left in the field to be a continuing sore point with the Hindus. No arrests were made at that time which might have had a good administratiove effect. This incident was the immediate factor that acted as an explosive.

A Hindu Mahasabha meeting was held at the Marwari Pathasala on 27th October 1946.

It may be mentioned that from August, 1946 to 28th October 1946 when the communal disturbances actually broke out at Bhagalpur, several festivals had peacefully passed such as *Dahi Kado*, Bakri-Id, *Chauk-Chanda*, *Dasehra*, Lakshmi *Puja* and Kali *puja* in the town. It is, therefore, possible to draw the conclusion that if the Kali image had not been desecrated at English Chichraum near Akbarpur there would not have been the burst up on 28th October 1946 in the town.

At about 11 A.M. on 28th October 1946 suddenly a Hindu, Bishwanath Jhunjhunwala was attacked near Mojahidpur bridge. He was picked up by a Sub-Inspector of Police who was out on mobile patrol with armed force. Within half an hour communal tension broke out in different quarters and sniping of men started. A brutal attack on the shop and dispensary of Dr. Rahim in Sujaganj Bazar resulting in the ultimate death of the doctor and his compounder was the worst case both from the point of view of a status of the person involved as well as from the type of frenzied attack that was made. There was no case of widespread rioting but isolated cases of arson, looting and murder. In spite of immediate action in mobilising the police and magistracy the number of casualty till the midnight of 28th October 1946 was 21 deaths and 15 injured. Considering the topography of a big and spread out city like Bhagalpur with a large number of lanes and by-lanes, fields and gardens the number of casualty should be taken as moderate and due to the patrol of the police and the magistracy with the help of some non-official as well.

The contagion spread to the mufassil areas and both thana mufassil and Nathnagar Police-station were affected. There were very few cases of murder on 29th October 1946 and 30th October 1946 but on 31st October 1946 there was a riot at Badarpur, in Nathnagar Police-station where guns were used on the Hindus. The Badarpur incident ignited the situation in Sultanganj and Shahakund thanas in Sadar subdivision and Belhar, Rajaun, Banka, Dhoraiya and Amarpur thanas in Banka subdivision.

The entire force of the magistracy and the police was fully utilised round the clock. The Anti-Communal riot schemes were put into operations and armed mobile patrols moved day and night. The Police forces had to be reinforced from Dumka, Purnea, Bihar Military Police and Railway Protection Police. One troop of the Mounted Military Police was deployed. Contact was made by the authority with the Sub-area Commanding, Dinapur and a Company of the North Staffordshire Regiment arrived on the 31st October 1946 and was given the more difficult areas for

patrolling. Although the military were not of much use so far as the combing of the interior, their patrolling on the high roads had a good administrative effect. On 7th November 1946 a company of Dogra Regiment arrived and the North Staffordshire Regiment was withdrawn. The Dogras were deployed in both the subdivisions and did a lot of useful work.

The usual precautionary measures were taken as soon as communal disturbances broke out. Curfew was imposed, goondas were rounded up, many firearms were seized, special Police Officers were enlisted and many arrests were made under section 151/107 and under section 54, Cr. Procedure Code. A sizeable number of non-officials actually co-operated and there were many cases of protection given by the Hindus to the panicky Muslim families both in the urban areas and in the mufassil. A pre-planned attack by Hindu mob from the *diara* and the neighbouring village of the Muslims from Fatehpur near Sabour was nipped by a Magistrate and some Congress workers of the area. This clash would have been very serious particularly because a number of Fatehpur Mohammadans had guns.

The communal frenzy had its worst in Lakhanpur village on Sultanganj—Tarapur road. A part of Lakhanpur is in Bhagalpur district while the major part falls in Monghyr district. There was a very unfortunate carnage at Lakhanpur and a Magistrate from Bhagalpur was deputed by the Commissioner of Bhagalpur Division who cleared up the remnants of the carnage at that portion of Lakhanpur which is in Monghyr district*. The village of Lakhanpur remained deserted for a few weeks and the villagers stayed in the mango groves near Gangania and Sultanganj. Relief camps have had to be started.

The subsidence of the communal disturbances took a little time and it may be said that the worst was quickly over quite soon and was mainly due to co-operation of the non-officials with the authorities. The two communities early realised the great folly of communal tension. With the partition and the set up of the Welfare State since 1947 there has not been any other revival of communal troubles of this type.

The Mahashay Family

As far as known there are only two families who were given the honorific title of Mahashay in Mughal days. One family is that of Bansberia Raj in West Bengal and the other of Bhagalpur district.

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*This unenviable task was entrusted to the Editor of this Gazetteer.

The Mahashay family is one of the most impo tant families in Bhagalpur district which traces its descent from Sri Ram Ghosh, who was appointed Kanungo-i-Sadar in 1604 (48 jalus) by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, in place of his aged father in-law Thak Dutta *alias* Laskar Dutta. Emperor Akbar also conferred upon him, the title of "Mahashay", which became hereditary. The family of Thak Dutta used to serve as Kanungos and the old record mention that Thak Dutta himself served as Kanungo-i- Sadar of Bhagalpur.

From Sri Ram Ghosh down to Paresh Nath Ghosh, all the Mahashayas served as Kanungo during different Mughal Emperors, namely, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jehan, Aurangzeb, Muhammad Shah. and Shah Alam. Originally Sri Ram Ghosh's family settled down in the village Dumrama, P.-S. Amarpur, Banka (Bhagalpur).

The old historical records mention that the Rajas of Kharagpur (Monghyr) always quarrelled for their illegal claim of 13 *gandas* share of collection of Bihar. Rajas of Kharagpur (Monghyr) also took the advantage of the unstable condition of the country, looted Kanungos' house and carried away large number of official records and documents, more than once. Sri Ram Ghosh was the first victim to Raja Sangram Sahu (Sangram Singh) of Kharagpur. The dispute again arose during Bhagwati Charan Ghosh's time when he was obstructed in performing his duties by Raja Jagat Narain of Kharagpur and Bir Narain, his brother. Ultimately Shah Suja, Subadar of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, got Bhagwati Charan Ghosh, formally appointed as Kanungo-i-Sadar in 1640 A. D., and a *firman* was issued to him accordingly by the then Mughal Emperor. Again for the third time, the Raja of Kharagpur, tried to assert his right of collection and attached the *kutchery*, of Mahashay Dayanath Ghosh, at Kharagpur and looted away records and documents. After this Mahashay Maya Nath Ghosh shifted his *kutchery* to the eastern bank of the river Ganga of Bhagalpur town. The Mahalla where he shifted his *kutchery* is contiguous to the present Mahalla, Mayaganj. Here too, the Raja of Kharagpur did not spare him and attacked the Mayagunj *kutchery* damaging numerous *Sanads*, grant records and papers. It appears that Kripanath Ghosh was addressed as Mahashay by Emperor Aurangzeb in 1108 F.S. in a *perwana* in which Mauza Lilatar (at present Rajoun P.-S., Banka subdivision, Bhagalpur) was granted to him in consideration of his faithful and valuable services to the throne. During Mahashay Paresh Nath Ghosh, the last *Kanungo*, Permanent Settlement was completed. He also rendered much valuable service to the East India Company in connection with Santhal Insurrection. Beside the other *perwanas* in which Paresh Nath Ghosh has been addressed as "Mahashay", three bear special mention, *viz.*,—

(1) In 1170 F.S. addressed by Emperor Shah Alam;
(2) In 1774 F.S. addressed by Emperor Shah Alam; and
(3) In 1803 A.D. addressed by Collector of Bhagalpur.

It would be very interesting to note that the stone image of Sri Sri Bhairab Nathjee (now the family deity of Mahashays) was dug out during Paresh Nath Ghosh's time from a site to the south of the present "Tilha Kothi", then owned by the Mahashays, which is quite evident from *perwana* of 7th Magh, 1170 F.S., corresponding to 1783 A.D. The *perwana* of 1783 A.D. also mentions that the lands at Chawki Niamatpur (at present Mohalla Champanagar, P.-S. Nathnagar, Bhagalpur) was made over to Paresh Nath Ghosh. The said idol was later installed in the newly constructed temple at Chowki Niamatpur (Champanagar).

The post of the Kanungo was abolished during the time of Cleveland, Collector of Bhagalpur. The old records mention that during the life time of Paresh Nath, his son Shambhu Nath Ghosh was appointed "*Diwan*" of the Collector of Bhagalpur in 1801 by the East India Company. During the life time of his father (Paresh Nath), Shambhu Nath was known as *Diwan* but after Paresh Nath's death, Shambhu Nath enjoyed the title of Mahashay which is evident from the *perwana* of 17th October 1821 of the Collector of Bhagalpur. Mahashay Shambhu Nath proved himself of much help and use to Lt. Col. Franklin in connection with the demarcation of boundaries of ancient Palibothra (Pataliputra) in 1818. Mahashay Shambhunath Ghosh's most outstanding achievement was the excavation of "Raj Danr" or "Mahashay Danr", for facilitating irrigation in Tuppa Sujanagar (Banka subdivision) within his Zamindari. Then Mahashay Uma Nath Ghosh succeeded his father (Shambhunath Ghosh) and emulated the noble example of his father by excavating another channel "Naya Danr".* Uma Nath's son Dwarika Nath was also addressed as Mahashay which is evident from one of the *perwanas* of 23rd January 1862.

The next Mahashay was Tarak Nath, whose fame is borne out by the Final Report of the Settlement Officer, Mr. Murphy (vide page 71):—

> "132. Mahashay Tarak Nath Ghosh has the reputation of being one of the best landlords in the district. He spends considerable amount of money in the upkeep of his irrigational channels which are maintained in good condition and his relations with his "rayats" are generally satisfactory."

Further, a reference to Bengal District Gazetteer, Bhagalpur, P. 80, may also be made, "Mahashay Tarak Nath Ghosh is a brilliant example to other zamindars and he has acquired proverbial fame for the special interest he takes in the proper irrigation of the lands lying in his estate. *Danrhs* owned by him are always kept in excellent repair."

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*See *Bengal District Gazetteer* (1911), Bhagalpur, P. 80.

Institutions like Sanatan Dharam Sabha (still existing at Karngarh), Bhagalpur Water Works, Bhagalpur Institute, Benaras Hindu University etc., to name a few, were the recipient of generous donations from Mahashay Tarak Nath Ghosh. He was succeeded by Mahashay Amar Nath Ghosh, his son in 1939. Amar Nath maintained the tradition and donated Rs. 10,000 to T.N.B. College and gave in gift valuable pieces of land for starting schools at Dumrama, Amarpur etc.*

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and inheritance.

For the Hindus, the law of inheritance is governed by the Hindu Law and in the case of the Mohammadans by the Mohammadan Law. A Hindu's property is never held in abeyance. It is the general principle of the Hindu Law that property devolves on the sons on the death of the father. According to Manu, the great law giver, "to the nearest *sapinda* the inheritance next belongs". A Hindu accrues his right in the ancestral property as soon as he is conceived but such right cannot be accrued in the separate property of his father. There are two schools of Hindu Law—*Dayabhag* and *Mitakshara* which govern different sections of the Hindus.

The position of women in this district along with the women elsewhere has substantially changed since the passing of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, the daughters get a share in her father's property just as the son, provided her father does not debar her by a law. Widow marriage and divorce are slowly coming into vogue though not common. Monogamy is the rule now.

So far as Mohammadans are concerned the father has the absolute right in the property and can debar any of the sons from inheritance. Among Mohammadans the daughter has as good a claim in her father's property as the son and there is a fixed ratio of the rights of son and daughter and the other relatives.

Family life, marriage and morals.

The old idea of joint family system among the Hindus is rapidly liquidating even in the villages. The shift of the more intelligent and educated section from the rural areas to the towns is a contributory factor. Family life is becoming more and more individualistic. Usually the branch of the family which earns more money slowly separates from the poorer branch. Family life in the villages is disintegrating. This is also due to the fact

*The main sources of information regarding the Mahashay family are Sri R.N. Ghosh and Sri M.N. Ghosh, Pleaders of Bhagalpur (P.C.R.C.).

that the chances of employment in the villages are small and the educated persons have got to shift to the urban areas. With the development of communications, expansion of Block Projects, cottage rural industries there may, however, be some change in the near future. The abolition of the zamindari accelerated the shift to the urban areas.

The previous idea of a Hindu marriage being more sacramental than contractual is on the wane. The orthodox restrictions of marriage alliance between particular relatives are, however, still basically followed. Contract marriages under Act III of 1874 are not unpopular. The number of civil marriages, intercaste marriages and interprovincial marriages is very small in the district but the parties so married are accepted in the society. Dowry system is still prevalent in some shape or the other. In middle class families the marriage of a daughter has become a problem due to the demand of dowry. Widow re-marriage is not held to be abnormal now although cases of widow marriage are not large. Working girls have no more difficulties to get married than other. But it has got to be admitted that although theoretically women are held in high esteem, they are not given their proper position yet either in the rural or the urban areas. Still economically women are dependent on their husbands, fathers or sons or others due to the peculiar structure of the society and conventions. Independent earning by women is not common. It is a fact that the women of the lower castes or the working girls are economically better off owing to their earning status. It is unfortunate that the backwardness of women as a class is holding back a broad-based social upgrading. There are, however, distinct signs of a break and the Indian National Congress, Bharat Sewak Samaj, All-India Women's Council, Social Service Board and various other voluntary social services organisation are actively engaged in broad-basing the social structure where women will have their full share.

Prostitution and traffic in women

It is unfortunate that prostitutes should be accepted as a common element in the social structure of Bhagalpur town till very recently. A large number of prostitutes lived permanently and many of them own *pucca* houses in Jogsar a prominent area. In the vicinity of this area there are houses of other respectable people, shops, etc. This feature is not particularly exclusively to Bhagalpur town only. Some of the other important towns in Bihar like Gaya, Monghyr and Muzaffarpur had also *mahallas* of prostitutes in the heart of the town.

This feature has a background. In the olden days it was nothing uncommon for a *rais* or a rich Zamindar openly maintaining public women and also going out in *phaetons* or cars for evening

jaunts. Songstresses were in great demand and were a common feature in social ceremonies like *Tilaks*, marriages, etc. There were also talented singers and dancers among them and it has to be remembered that it is this class of women who were both patronised and despised in the same breath had kept up the institution of classical dancing and music when they were not cultivated at all in domestic families. Three decades back it was unthinkable that an educated school or college girl would openly dance or sing in the public and earn merited appreciation. There has been a tremendous advance in social thoughts regarding music, dance, etc., and in the light of the present trend the contribution of the public women in the past should not be derided. If there was a large section of fallen women the responsibility was really not theirs but to the society in which they were allowed to remain. The very fact that they were allowed to live in the heart of the town, built or owned houses, and carry on the profession shows that there was an encouragement to them by the society.

With the spread of education and advance thought, there has also been a simultaneous upgrading among the women of this class. It is a common feature now that many of the fallen women are bringing up their daughters or younger sisters in a different atmosphere and are keen to give them a proper schooling for their future.

In this district prostitutes were not confined to Bhagalpur town only. Some of the other townships and large villages also had number of prostitutes.

An investigation was made in early 1961 and it was ascertained that there were about 100 families of prostitutes in the town of Bhagalpur. As usual their places had to be carefully watched by the Police as various types of anti-social elements used to collect there.

In 1956 Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Girls and Women Act was passed by the Central Government. It was enforced in the district of Bhagalpur on the 26th day of November 1960. Since the enactment of this Act these areas have been declared as Red Light Area. About sixty or seventy families of prostitutes from Jogsar *mahalla* have left and now there are only about 20 *tawaifs* (songstresses) who are maintaining their livelihood as dancing girls and singers. There are still about 14 *khandgiz* (prostitutes of lower status) who did not yet go and they have been prosecuted and are undergoing trial in the Court. One thing more should be discussed here. This Act was not simultaneously enforced throughout the State. This has affected in other way also. Several *tawaifs* have migrated to this place. From Kotwali it was learnt that there were only four local prostitutes but many of them have migrated from the States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, etc.

An enquiry disclosed that the prostitutes have their own code of conduct and specially the Gandharva sect who trace their origin from mythological Gandharva feel irritated if they were called professionals. Beside Gandharva sect there are two more other sects, *i.e.*, Ramjani and Musalmani. The professionals belonging to the Gandharva sect are all Hindus. Those belonging to Ramjani may be either Hindus or Muslims. Musalmani prostitutes are Muslims. The inter-marriage is strictly prohibited from one sect to another.

The abolition of zamindari and the deterioration of the economic condition of the common mass have affected these professionals very adversely. The welcome changes in social ideas do not encourage the singing and the dancing of such women at the social functions. Without a leisured class of men with long purse the financial condition of such women is bound to deteriorate. This is what has happened and many of the girls of such families are now getting themselves educated. This is a good field for reclaiming these women and utilising them for handicrafts or other skilled professions.

As mentioned above, the abolition of zamindari and the economic deterioration of hitherto moneyed class had affected the influx of such women in the town. But their professions have been banned which is a fitting step taken by the Welfare State.

Yet it cannot be denied that there is a certain amount of underground traffic in women. Bhagalpur was famous for prostitution in pre-partition days. The enquiry also disclosed that a few of them had to adopt this profession because of the hardships or because they were led astray at a very young age and society would not take them back.

Since the Immoral Traffic Act was enforced in the district in 1960, the financial condition of the prostitutes has declined. Social consciousness had to be aroused and a proper rehabilitation in the practical field is necessary.

Drinking and Gambling

Bhagalpur district is not a prohibited area. The revenue of the Excise Department is increasing year by year. Both country and foreign liquor are sold in huge quantity.

Drinking for the common men has been a feature of the past as well and is largely due to *tal* and *khajur* trees.

The innumerable *tal* and *khajur* trees in the district have led to a craze for *tari*. The beverage of this unfermented juice is said to have medicinal value. Fermented *tal* juice or *tari* is almost the poor man's beer and any prohibition of the drinking of *tari* will deprive them of a source of joy. But it could be controlled.

In the summer season wayside *tari* shops crop up and the many a passerby usually drop in for a drink. This is the season when the servant class mostly has a good time to the detriment of their work. Sale of *tari* is controlled by the Excise Department but illegal tapping of *tal* trees for *tari* is difficult to check. There has been no proper census of *tal* trees in this district but the number must be many thousands. There are licensed shops both in the towns as well as in the rural areas where country liquor of different grades is sold. There is a ban for the consumption of country liquor within the premises of the shop. This is not strictly followed as investigation shows. The idea is that if there is a ban on consumption of country liquor within the shop premises there will be a decline in the consumption of the liquor. It was thought that the people will hesitate to buy country liquor and take them home for drinking the beverage. But this is counteracted by allowing the people to drinking just outside the shop. Sale of foreign liquor is also controlled. The enormous rise in the price of foreign liquor stands as a check to its promiscuous consumption. The use of *nira* or unfermented *tari* has yet to become popular. *Bhang* or a hemp is also common in the district. *Ganja* is cultivated in portions of the district under strict supervision. For *Chandu* there is said to be a den at *mahallah* Maulanachak in Bhagalpur. Only a few persons are addicted to this type of intoxicant. Other intoxicants like opium, *charas*, etc., are also in use. *Charas* is prepared by mixing Babul and Guava leaves in opium. The sale of the foreign liquors has increased now than the past.

Certain types of criminal offences are usually associated with promiscuous drinking. Crime figures of sexual offences commonly associated with heavy drinking will be found in the relevant chapters but it is difficult to say what percentage of such figures could be said to be due to drinking. Another common offence associated with drinking is gambling.

Gambling is not, however, a dangerous problem in the district. It is, however, understood that gambling is not confined to the lower strata of the society or the criminal class. It is said that the respectable Marwaris, well-placed officials and non-officials also indulge in some form of gambling, etc., within closed doors. It may be mentioned here that during *Diwali*, gambling is very common. There are various modes of play which could be described as gambling. The most favourite mode is the play with dices and gambling with cards. Card games are popular in modern society. Such games are bridge, rummy, flush and *tin tasia*. Of course, the games of rummy, flush and *tin tasia*, *mangpata* are common in lower society too.

In the past there was a gambling den which used to be run in *mahallas* Kutubganj and Mandroja of Bhagalpur town by some

important criminals, from various parts of the State, such as Monghyr, Sahabganj, Naugachhia, Dumka and other places used to participate. This has since been stopped out of the efforts of the local officers but local criminals still indulge in gambling quietly, where no criminal from outside take part. Prosecutions under this category of crime are few and cannot be said to have a detrimental effect.

Another offence which is said to be common in this district is the smuggling of non-duty-paid *Ganja*. The proximity of Nepal border has encouraged this offence.

Home Life

There has been a somewhat exhaustive treatment of the types of dwelling, furniture, decoration, dress and ornaments, food, amusement and festivities in the re-written District Gazetteer of Saran. The observations there have their bearing on this district as well. The villages in this district are usually clustered together within a space of the village and apart from the cultivation land. There is usually a small homestead land adjoining the houses. The individual houses are not sited within the cultivation land of the tenants which is the common feature in some other parts of India. Villages have not grown as haphazardly as towns have. Most of the houses in rural area are *kutcha* being built of mud and plaster with thatched roof and usually well-to-do men have a small *angan* attached to the house. The *diara* villages are particularly liable to be inundated by floods and burnt down by fire and a very austere type of hutments are the usual dwellings in the *diara* areas. There is no sewerage system within the village and there is a general lack of a sense of sanitation which is also quite noticeable in the urban areas. In the rural areas, lavatory does not exist excepting in the houses of well-to-do people and the problem of cleaning the lavatory is becoming rather acute. But the open spaces in the outskirts of the villages and the nearby fields are commonly used by the villagers to make up the lack of proper privies in their individual houses.

The growth of the towns in this district has been treated separately. It may be mentioned that excepting Bhagalpur none of the present towns in Bhagalpur district has had any planned programme behind its growth. The towns have common pattern along with the towns elsewhere in Bihar.

The Bazar portion is usually crowded. Slums are not segregated and there is a clear weightage from the municipalities for the better upk ep of the areas where the officials and richer folks live, although the main municipal income comes from the bazar portion. The houses in the towns are usually brick built with mortar and cement. Housing condition in the towns is already an acute problem and portions of a house are being let out on

rent without proper facilities for separate bath-room or lavatory. The housing problem can only be solved after a large number of houses have been made available for the people of lower and smaller income groups. As they are, there is not much of privacy or comfort in the houses of the common men. Consumption of electricity even where power is available is mostly confined to people with fairly good income.

Furniture and Decoration

Possession of furniture is a sign of money and taste and the index of furniture in a household naturally varies. Urban influence has recently been responsible for the richer villagers slowly come in for proper drawing room, bedroom and dining room furniture along with better type of houses. The average middle class families have not only a number of sleeping cots but also some chairs, tables and a few wooden benches. Interior decoration is more of a casualty in most of the houses because of more lack of money than of taste. Gardening as a hobby has yet to percolate. It is a pity that even middle class people who can afford not to speak of the richer folks have not taken to gardening as a matter of course.

In the urban areas usually there is more of furniture in the household. With the small sized rooms that are comming in vogue, the furniture have to be simple and not too heavy or ornate. The slant is towards following the pattern of the utility type of furniture. Interior decoration in the house of a rich man of taste in a town has slowly been coming in. Books are hardly possessed with pride.

Dress and Ornaments

There is nothing particularly different in dress and ornaments among the people in this district from those in Saran district which has had an exhaustive treatment in the re-written Saran Gazetteer. The old costumes like *kurta*, *dhoti*, *paijama*, coarse *sari*, *jhula*, etc., are still there in the villages but are being replaced with better type of *dhoti*, coat, shirt, trousers, bush-shirt, *salwar*, *chaddar*, *dopatta*, etc. The use of shoes and chappals is normal for the town dwellers. Villagers are also taking more to the use of better type of shoes and *chamarua* shoes made of untanned hide are slowly disappearing. The use of cosmetics and other articles of toilet particularly for the ladies has come to stay and the degree of their consumption depends on money and availability. Regarding ornaments, significant changes have come in their use for both men and women. A few decades back males used to have more ornaments for the finger, ear and the neck. But now male's ornaments are practically reduced to rings only.

Of course in Marwari, Bania families gold chain is worn by male members. Women have given up many of the old type ornaments which were very heavy and ornate. The slant is towards ornaments of simpler design, lighter weight and there is more use of stone instead of gold and other expensive metal. The neck is the most favourite part of the body for the wearing of ornaments. Ornaments are used by the ladies for the neck, arms, wrist, fingers, waist and feet. As a rule no gold is worn on the feet. Gold, silver and precious stones are the chief ingredients. Glass beads etc., are also commonly used. Glass bangles and imitation jewels are very popular.

Food and Drinks

The diet of the common man is very unbalanced and deficient in protein. This is partially due to habits and economic status. Rice, Wheat, barley, maize, pulses, vegetables, fish and meat are the common food of the district. The people of lower income group live on barley, maize, other cereals, pulses, *sattu* (a flour prepared from one or other of the various grains), *chura* or fried rice and curd and some cheap vegetables. The middle class families take more of vegetables and pulses with their main diet of rice and wheat. Consumption of fish, meat, egg and milk depends on the economic condition of the family as the prices of these commodities are going up. Fruits like water melon, mango and *lichi* are taken during the season provided they are cheap. Watermelon and different varieties of mango are abundantly grown. *Zardalu* species of mangoes is highly prized. Cheaper fruits like banana and guava are for the common man. Milk and its various preparations such as curd, ghee, butter and *chhena* are more for the rich. Milk of both cow and buffalo are in use. Milk-made sweets of Bhagalpur have a good market.

Among the vegetables potato, *palwal*, lady's finger, pumpkin, brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, bean, radish, various kinds of cucurbita and spinach are usually taken. Various kinds of pickles are commonly taken. The majority of the population is vegetarian.

The culinary condiments generally used are turmeric, cuminseeds, pepper, ginger, cardamoms, cloves, coriander seeds, cinnamons, nutmeg, mac, cassia, cubes, mustard, suffron, asafoetida, onion and garlic. The cooking medium is usually some kind of oil like mustard, hydrogenated oil (vegetable *ghee*) and *ghee*. Unfortunately pure *ghee* is a rarity now. Bhagalpur was once noted for pure *ghee*.

There are various kinds of meat and fish preparations current in the district. Muslim influence is seen in dishes of *Moghalai* types like *biriani*, *polao*, *kalia*, *korma*, *kofta*, *kabab*, *raziala*, *murg-mosallam*, etc. Bengali influence is seen in fish preparations like

jhoul, fried fish, *murighanto*, etc. The restaurants are popularising meat and fish preparations like cutlet, chop and roast. Eggs have become very popular. Tea and snack shops are found in every town and big villages. Tea drinking is becoming a common habit in the middle class families and in the group of people belonging to the class of the heavy workers like mechanics, drivers, and hard manual labourers. Tea shops are fast becoming the clearing house for gossips and rumours. Coffee has not yet become popular. Cold drink in the summer season and specially on ceremonial occasions is common. Drink of curd (lussi) is also a popular drink in the summer season. Various kinds of aerated water more attractive for the colour have penetrated even into the villages. Smoking is also becoming quite common in spite of the increasing price of tobacco. Smoking among women is very common. *Biris* and cigarettes are slowly replacing *hukka* smoking. Smoking of cigar is not common. The chewing of *pan* with areca nut is very common and the expenditure on it is not inconsiderable.

Amusements

Songs and music have a great fascination for the rural people. *Bhajans* and *Kirtans*, devotional songs with music have not lost their popularity. Apart from them there is a craze for particular types of songs in particular seasons like *Holi*, etc. The *melas* and fairs have a great impact on the rural population. Usually, the *melas* and fairs provide a number of amusement centres such as *nautanki*, theatre parties, *jatras*, circus, cinema shows, etc. Football matches and wrestling have a great hold on a rural public. In big villages as in towns there are theatrical and *jatra* parties during particular festivals like *Durga Puja* or *Deepawali*, card games are very popular in all strata of society.

The towns in the district have more centres for amusement and recreation. Bhagalpur has a number of cinema houses, recreation clubs, and some sort of exhibition or amusement centres practically remain there for at least three to four months in a year. The student population has very little contact with their teachers during the hours beyond the college study. The bulk of student population congregate in tea stalls or restaurants or cinema in the afternoons. Very few are found in the libraries which are very few in number. Their interest could be canalised to sports, cultural meetings, etc. The towns save and except Bhagalpur do not have adequate playing grounds, parks or centre of cheap amusement and recreation.

Festivals

Festivals form part of the daily life of the Hindus and Muslims both in rural and urban areas. Bhagalpur wears a gala appearance

during particular festivals. *Behula Puja*, *Janmashtami*, *Shivaratri*, *Ramnavami*, *Tij*, *Durga Puja*, *Deepawali* and *Holi* are some of the festivals for the Hindus. *Sabebarat*, *Ramjan*, *Id*, *Bakrid* and *Fatiha-dua-dahum*, *Muharram* are important for the Muslims.

Besides, Bhagalpur has an annual *Ramlila* festival where friends and relatives from far and near meet together. "*Purnima Sammelan*" celebrates the "Buddha *Purnima*" day with a popular function every year. Bhagalpur has a special kite flying competition festival. There is a big Jain temple and Dharamshala at Nathnagar where Jains congregate on the birth day of Lord Mahabir.

The Mohammadan population here have a special festival of lights when one night paper boats, lamps etc., decorated with lights are floated in the river during the rainy season. They have another festival—the sacrifice of fowls at a place nearby Milki village, thana Bihpur (*Alangan Saheb ka Dargah*).

ECONOMIC AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS AND CLASSES IN RELATION TO SOCIAL LIFE.

The foremost economic group is of the agriculturists of various grades—big and small. During the period of war the prices of food-grains became very high and the agriculturists took advantage of it and economic condition of some of them became very sound. This also happened in the case of those zamindars who beside the cash income from rent had also large or small agricultural holdings commonly known as *Bakast* or *Kamat* lands. It is the agricultural economy which permeates the social life in the district and we may, in a way, say that the social life of the district is rooted in the villages. It is the rural pattern of life which largely rules the district and the present Welfare State has put the necessary accent on it by agriculturists of our villages. To give an example, the political leaders five decades back were more or less urban with urbane manners and their political meetings were mostly held in the towns. They gave the leadership that was suited to the times. But with the change in the political set up and with the gradual evolution of self-government and the ushering in of democracy, it was clearly appreciated that the leadership may remain in the hands of the urban people but they must win the support of the villagers. This is one great change that Mahatma Gandhi had brought to the country and Bhagalpur district along with the other districts in Bihar had the fullest impact of that teaching. The district branch of the Indian National Congress gained popularity because the leaders toured throughout the villages at the critical period of organising the Congress movement in the bullock carts, *ekkas*, boats, and on foot. They lived with

the people, they ate their food and they fully demonstrated that they were one with them as they were really so. The artificial gap which had been brought in by the Western education between an English educated man and the villager was quickly obliterated. The average common man in the village of Bhagalpur realised that he also be counted and probably with the realisation there has come in a certain amount of avoidable evil. At the moment with the widening of franchise based on adult franchise, it is the agriculturists of the district that form the bulk of the electorate. No democratic set-up of State administration could alienate the agriculturists now. That is the reason why the Congress Ministry have been trying their utmost to bring in a welfare measure and land reforms so that the condition of the agriculturists is improved. A series of reforms that have been brought are calculated to improve the economic condition of the cultivators, *bataidars*, agricultural labourers and landless labourers. It is a different thing if some of the reforms have not achieved their target. But nevertheless, the objective is there. The village has again been put on the map and the trend is to improve the villages.

There are other classes in consideration of the economic status and also several professional groups. Formerly before the abolition of zamindari system the big landlords were economically more sound and commanded highest place in the society. They mostly led princely life and brought up their children in accordance with their status. They were the aristocrats of the society. Persons having zamindari income of even a sum of Rs. 2,500 or more led an aristocratic life though in their zeal for maintaining pomp and grandeur of their class, they used to become indebted and economically shattered. Next came the lawyers and other professionals who formed the brain trust in the district. The zamindars as a class cannot be run down because many of them in Bhagalpur district tried to discharge a part of their social obligations by starting schools, colleges, libraries and other cultural institutions Many of them have endowed temples, mosques, trusts and other charitable institutions. But at the same time it must be said that it is the zamindars who had encouraged the various *abwabs* that raiyats had to pay over and above their rent. The number of rent suits in any year was many times larger than the other types of civil suits. This alone shows that the zamindari as an institution was not popular.

The abolition of zamindari came in the chain of a series of agrarian reforms. The impact of the abolition of zamindari system has been very great. The condition of some of the ex-zamindars specially those whose main source of maintenance was the income from zamindari has rather become pitiable.

As already mentioned these zamindars maintained and contributed to the maintenance of hospitals, schools, *Ashrams* for widows, temples and mosques. There was a sense of charity in most of them and majority of them contributed lavishly even for national causes. During the struggle for independence most of them, though stealthily were pillars of strength for the economic soundness of the struggle. One result of the abolition of the zamindari is that all these charitable institutions are either gradually vanishing or have so greatly deteriorated that they are almost non-existent. Those who were the charity givers are now virtually beggers. After the abolition of the zamindari, the old zamindars are taking to other vocations and professions. There is a danger in the society that some of these who have been forced by the abolition of the zamindari to lead a life of poverty from the life of ease and comfort may swell the ranks of persons not desirable for the society. Most of the old zamindars use to maintain irrigational facilities in their respective zamindaris and these irrigational facilities are gradually deteriorating. Now for everything charitable people have to look to the Government for assistance.

The Bangiya Sahitya Parishad

As an association aiming solely at literary and social improvement, a branch of the parent Bangiya Sahitya Parishad of Calcutta (which came into being in about 1892), the Bhagalpur Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, was established in 1905. Its nucleus was a literary society called "*Sahitya Sabha*" founded by the then literary persons including the famous Bengali novelist Sarat Chandra Chatterji. The meetings of the *Sabha* was held at the residence of the Gangulis of Bengali tola (Sarat Chandra's maternal uncle's house where he was brought up and the reminiscences of which have found place in his famous book *Srikanta*) by a few youngmen of literary pursuits, the only *pardah* lady member being the budding talent Nirupama Debi who did not appear personally but listened to the discussions from the adjacent room and had her writings read through a proxy.

The third All-India Bengali Literary Conference was held at Bhagalpur in February, 1910, under the auspices of the Bhagalpur Bangiya Sahitya Parishad under the presidentship of Mr. Justice Sarada Charan Mitra and Rabindranath spoke very highly of the residents of all communities of Bhagalpur and of the working of the local *Sahitya Parishad* which was then only five years old. It was started with a museum but it is now defunct for dearth of its separate building meantime.

Mainly owing to the efforts of Shri Ranjit Sinha, a leading advocate, a separate building and hall (named Chandra Shekhar

Hall) was constructed in 1937 at the munificence of a few magnanimous citizens, the children of the late Chandra Shekhar Sarkar, Mrs. Deep Narayan Singh (daughter of Sir Taraknath Palit) and others and the Golden Jubilee of the *Parishad* was celebrated in 1957. The library of the *Parishad* contains over 3,000 books.

THE BHAGALPUR INSTITUTE

The Bhagalpur Institute and Public Library which celebrated its centenary in 1934 and the 125th year of its existence in 1959 was established in 1834. In order to dispel the doubt which some people may feel as to the possibility of such an institution being established at such an early period of the British rule the old history of the town has to be remembered. In the early days the civil town was built near the old city (consisting of Nathnagar, Champanagar and Karnagarh including a fort and these facts prove the existence of an old town around them) and the Cleveland House (Tilla Kothi) and other well built houses bear testimony to this. The old civil town was inhabited by Europeans and the area is still called Sahibganj. Besides, Bhagalpur played an important role in the early days of the British Rule and was considered as a sanatorium. The house of Rai Bahadur Surya Narayan Sinha was the official residence of the Lieutenant Governors who used to spend some part of the year here before Darjeeling was discovered and when Darjeeling was first opened up the road lay through Bhagalpur. Gradually the civil station was extended eastward with the exodus of officers and assistants in the Government offices while others came in service under the various indigo concerns situated in or around the town. The different communities at the time felt the necessity of a common meeting place and joined together to start this Public Library. Eminent persons like Raja Ram Mohan Ray and Dr. K. D. Ghosh (father of Shri Aurobindo) stayed here and with the help and enthusiasm of the prominent citizens of all communities (Muslims, Biharis, Marwaris and Bengalis) the present building was built, the land being a free gift from Mr. Kedar Nath Chakrabarti. In 1892 Rai Bahadur Surya Narayan Sinha presented a billiard table which enhanced the attraction of the institute and on which have played players of international reputation (e. g., Mr. Y. C. Ariff). The recent landmarks in the history of the Institute are the construction of the upper storey, electrification of the premises and throwing open the membership to the ladies as well. The library contains about 5,000 books and all in English.

The name of the institute is "The Bhagalpur Literary and Scientific Institute" and consists of a public library and a recreation club including a billiard room and a *pucca* tennis court. The object is to promote social intercourse among all communities and the pursuit of the study of literature and science, provided

that no political meeting or demonstration or agitation is held by or under the auspices of the institute. No spirituous liquors or intoxicating drugs are allowed to be consumed within the premises of the institute.

MINOR GAMES

In the play activities of infancy and early childhood, toys predominate over games. Babies are fascinated by multi-coloured rattles (*jhunjhunna*) and toys that make a variety of sounds—all kinds of pipes, whistles, drums, etc. These are followed by their keen rival, the doll and then come the 'toys on wheels'. It is not an uncommon sight to see a child tripping about the house with a *kharkharwa gadiwala* or running about dragging behind him a toy-vehicle attached to a short string.

Children of four to five years of age play a few games taking part by turns. *Lukka chori* or hide and seek is a simple chase and tag game in which one of the children chases while others hide. The seeker stands facing a wall with his eyes closed. After all the players have found a hiding place they call out, "ready". On this the 'seeker' unfolds his eyes and starts searching the hidden players who rush to the spot and touch an object previously agreed on before the 'seeker' touches them. Children love swimming. Then there are games of the 'imitative' or 'make believe' type. In these types of games there are various roles like that of a cartman, horse-driver, engine-driver, palanquin bearer, etc., enacted with fidelity to real life. They are games of the sort played with no set rules but with a good team spirit, every player having a part to perform. A game known as *Ghoda-ghoda* (horse) is played in several ways. Generally two children stand, one (driver) behind the child is the horse. Sometimes, a rope is passed from the back of the neck of the 'horse' and the 'driver' holds in one of his hands the two ends of the rope and carries a whip in the other. Another variety of this game consists of the 'horse' moving on all fours with a 'rider' on his back. Horse and rider is also played by only one child, the child (rider) holding a long stick (horse) between the two legs, one of the legs resting on the ground behind and the other held on the hand. *Palaki* (palanquin) is usually played by three. The two stand facing each other, each gripping with his right hand his left elbow and with his left hand the right elbow of his friend opposite. In the arm square so formed they carry the third who sits with his arms resting on the shoulders of the two. While carrying the third the other two utter slogans one of which is quoted below :—

'Jai Kanhaiya Lal ki,
Madan Gopal ki,
Larkan ke hathi-ghoda,
Budhawan ke Palaki.'

Another game is the children form a queue, each holding the garment of the one in front of him and play a train on the move. The engine-driver is at the head, at the tail is the guard, and in between are the 'wagons'. The guard whistles and gives the signal, the 'wagons' get ready to move and the 'engine' speeds up. At intervals on way to destination the 'engine' has to whistle : '*Koo-chhik-chhik-chhik.*'

Doll-dressing and doll-marriage are favourite pastime among girls. The game of house-keeping is often played enthusiastically by girls with secondary roles given to boys. Doll's marriage may form a part of house-keeping or be played as a game by itself when planned on a grand scale.

A number of 'chase and tag' games are played by children between the ages of five and nine. *Chance* is a simple game which is played between two parties. Usually there are five to six players in each party. One party hides in suitable places and when the hiding party calls 'ready', the other party makes a search of the hiding persons. One person of the search party watches the object previously agreed on before one of the 'seekers' touches them and calls out "*chance*", "*chance*". This leads to the hiding of the same party unless and until all 'seekers' are traced by the search party. This game is played in more than one way.

In all 'chase and tag' games the player who is tagged becomes the chaser and the game starts afresh.

Games of *goli* (marble), *lattu* (top), and *guddi* (kite) have great attraction for boys between the ages of six and sixteen and are played with competitive zest. For hitting a marble usually the spring action of the drawn up middle finger is used. There are various types of marble games such as *parro, ghuchpillo, tisso,* etc. Each instance of correct aiming adds to the delight of the player and gives an impetus to the other to compete. Spinning the top follows the same method in all parts of the country. Once a mastery over the 'spin' is acquired more skilful top-games like *gunjmar, bellaphar, lattu jitto*, etc., are contested.

During winters kite-flying is very common. Kite-flying starts after *Dasahra* and ends generally on *Sankranti* day or on *Shivaratri* day. Hoisting up a kite is as good as a challenge to anybody to have a 'kite-fight'. Each boy so handles his kite as to cut off the thread of his opponent. The thread treated with powdered glass and gum is used. Kite-flying fascinates older people also. At one time Zamindars and *Rais* people used to fly kites of various shapes and dimensions and there used to be regular *mahalla* teams for kite-flying.

A number of team-games are played in later childhood and adolescence. Some of them are described below :—

Rumal chor.—Players sit in circle facing in and one of them runs outside the circle with a *rumal* (handkerchief) in his hand which he quietly and swiftly puts behind one of the players. If the player is alert he immediately picks up the *rumal* and chases the player who dropped it behind him. The latter to avoid being hit by the chaser must reach the vacant place quickly.

If the seated player fails to detect the *rumal* put behind him, the chaser completing the round picks up the *rumal* and then beats and chases the 'dullard' till he takes one round and resumes his seat.

Dole Patta.—This hardy game is popularly played by cowherds. From a circle drawn on the ground under a tree a player throws away a stick as distant as he can. By the time the 'thief' runs for the stick and restores it in the circle all climb the tree. The game lies in the players from the tree jumping from or climbing down the tree and touching the stick before they are tagged by the thief. The one who is tagged becomes the next 'thief'.

There are other games like *goolli danda, andhi chapat,* etc., which are popularly played by young boys.

Girls generally prefer games like doll-dressing, doll-marriage and are greatly interested in dancing, skipping and singing. Boys on the other hand love to play strenuous games involving muscular exercise and skill. Following are some of the games played by girls :

Panch gotiya is a sedentary game played by girls. Big round pebbles or shreds of pottery serve as ready material. Generally five pieces of pebbles are thrown on the floor and one player picks up one of them and throws it into the air and picks up another from the floor and catches both the thrown pebbles in the air and a pebble from the ground. In this way the game is played—first *ek-ek,* then *do-do, tin-tin, char-char,* then *bainchiya* and then last one *jhapta.*

There are other games known as *ek-hat—do-hat, denga pani* (boat and water), *utha baithi, ghagho rani,* etc. They all are light games but very amusing and can be played by a group of any number of girls.

There are various popular games of the adults. Of the Indian games, the well-known are :—(1) *Kabaddi*, (2) *Raja Kabaddi*, (3) *Circle Kho-kho* and a number of other games.

The other most popular out door games in the district are foot-ball, hockey, cricket, volley-ball, basket-ball, tennis, badminton, etc., and the indoor games are carrom, table-tennis, billiards, playing cards, chess, etc.

Then there are other recreational activities like Drama, Dance, Music, *Kirtan*, *Bhajan*, *Ramayan path*, etc. Dance, drama and music are generally organised during *Dasahra*, *Vaishakhi* day, *Diwali* and on other occasions. During Muharram, Muslims also entertain themselves with displaying of *lathis*, *bhala*, etc.

There are a few *Akharas* and *Gymnasium* in which wrestling, *lathis*, *lezims*, *bana*, spears, etc., are taught. Heavy stone-bells and stone-wheels and sometimes dumb-bells and modern weight-lifting apparatus are available in gymnasium centres.

There are several recreational clubs in the town of Bhagalpur where games of table-tennis, billiards, playing cards, etc., are available.

CUSTOMS AMONG MUSLIMS

The Muslim women during pregnancy observe like the Hindus, a number of restrictions. After the birth of a child the father or any male member present recites *Azan*, the prayer called in Arabic into the ears of the child. For forty days the mother abstains from regular prayer. Circumcision is observed usually before the male child reaches the age of seven or eight. They also perform the *maktab* ceremony of the child at the age of five by reciting the verses of the holy *Kuran*. This ceremony is supposed to mark the beginning of the educational career of the child. On the occasion of this ceremony sweets are distributed to friends and relations.

Marriage

Courtship before marriage is slow in coming up because of the *pardah* system among Muslims. Two male witnesses bear testimony to the celebration of the marriage after taking consent of the bride. After her consent they declare her intentions to the public and then the sermon of the *Khutba-e-nikah* is recited. The bride's father normally gives away the bride in marriage to the bridegroom. On the eve of departure of the bride to the house of the bridegroom the *jalwa* ceremony is performed. They are made to see each other's face in a mirror and to read the *Kuran* together.

These customs are general among the Muslims but in their sub-caste, certain customs differ. In a Jolaha's marriage no band or music is played. The marriage customs among Ahmadyya Muslims are somewhat different and have been discussed elsewhere.

Death

Verses from the holy *Kuran* are recited in low voice in the ears of the dying man. The dead body covered with a white cloth (*kafan*) is placed in a bier (*janaza*) and is carried by men to the graveyard. A mat prepared of palm leaves and pitcher filled with water are placed by the side of the dead body into the grave. The last prayers are offered near the graveyard. The dead body is kept in the graveyard, the head being kept towards the west to face Mecca. After the grave is closed the *imam* recites verses of the *Kuran* and prayers are offered for the peace of soul. On the fortieth day *Kuran* verses are recited, alms are distributed and a dinner is given to friends and relatives.

MULLACHAK MASJID

This *masjid* (mosque) is in the town of Bhagalpur, close to the railway. This is the oldest mosque in the town.

The earliest document to establishment of this mosque goes to show that one Hazarat Maulana Shahbaz Mohammad, who was born in *zila* Bihar came to Bhagalpur during the reign of Jahangir with his family. He died in 1050 *Hizri* during the reign of Shahjahan.

The said old document further describes that certain *mauzas* were given in grant for the maintenance of the students of the Madrasa and the mosque. The tomb of Maulana Shahbaz with four minarets was constructed by the Royal Officer Mirza Mohammad Moquim and after that mosque was given *pucca* construction by Emperor Shahshuja. Later on, in 1170 *Hizri*, a confirmatory grant was issued by Mir Mohammad Jafar Khan Bahadur, Officer-in-charge of the district during the reign of Emperor Alamgir.

Then other houses and a small *hauj* (tank) were constructed by Mirza Ibrahim Hussain Khan, who was the Revenue Collector during that period.

The tomb of Hazrat Maulana Shahbaz Mohammad is now a holy place for the Muslims. Many Hindus also visit the tomb and give offerings. During the time of *urs*, the *chadar* is changed and this *urs* is one of the most sacred ceremonies for the Muslims.

The Madrasa constructed by Mirza Ghulam Hussain Khan is now extinct. Later on a *khankah* was constructed by the Brahman Raja of Kharagpur, district Monghyr. The present condition of the *khankah* is not so good as it had been in the past.

ASHRAMS AT COLGONG

There are three small hills held sacred in the river bed at Colgong. Each hill is separate and the distance between these hills is about one furlong. During rainy season these hills become islands. They are well worth a visit. The *ashrams* on these hills have a religious impact on the Hindus.

Nanakshahi Ashram.—On the first hill on the extreme northern side there is an *Ashram* of Guru Nanak.

This *Nanakshahi Ashram* was established about 150 years ago when a disciple of Burdwan Sikh *Gurudwara* settled here. At first this *Ashram* was established in a small hut and some eighty years back a *pucca* building was constructed for its permanent abode. This was constructed with the help of public donation. At present there is a Sadhu Baba Shanti Das at this *Ashram*.

Tapash Ashram Pahar.—The next hill which is just to the south of the *Nanakshahi Pahar* is known as *Manjhola Pahar* (second or middle hill) or *Tapash Ashram Pahar*.

There is a very interesting story about this hill. Before the establishment of this *Tapash Ashram*, some thirty years back there used to live a *sadhu* (saint) on the top of this hill who was popularly known as Hanuman Baba. There used to live a *Hanuman* (black faced monkey) with him. This *Hanuman* always accompanied him wherever he visited. People still speak very high of this Hanuman Baba. It is said that once this *Hanuman* or monkey went to all those places where he had visited with the *Sadhu* and showed great excitement. A few of his disciples suspected something and went to see Hanuman Baba and found him dead. The monkey also died a few days later. Another view is that the *Hanuman* died first and then the *Sadhu* died.

There is now an *Ashram* on this hill also which is known as *Tapash Ashram*. This *Ashram* was established between the years 1946—48. It is run by Naresh Brahmachari who devotes his time between this place and his *Ashram* in Benares.

A *Pathshala* of a few boys with free teaching is run by this *Ashram*. The expenditure of the *Ashram* is met by public subscription or monthly subscription sent by the disciples of Shr Naresh Brahmachari.

Buddhist Pahar.—The third hill which is on the extreme southern side is known as Buddhist *Pahar* or *Barka Pahar*. There are a number of caves on this hill.

Owing to a dispute between the Hindus and the Muslims who claim the area as their religious place, both the parties have been restrained from going over there for apprehension of breach of the peace. The Hindus claim that Shiva temple and *Shiva Lingas* are there while Muslims claim that one of their *Pirs* died on that hill.

JATRA PARTIES

An amateur *Jatra Party* was started near about 1880 by Rajnarayan Banerji, Shib Chandra Khan, Baidyanath Chakravarty, Chandranath Banerji and others but due to financial difficulties and death of some of its promoters it ceased to exist. Later, *Bhagalpur Arya Theatre* came into existence under the sponsorship of Nemai Neogi, Tinkauri Ghosh, Chandra Ghosh and others. Raja Taresh Pandey of Pakur presented this theatre with a stage which was kept up in the garden house of Rai Bahadur Tej Narayan Singh, but was set fire to in 1886. There was another party *Meatre-o-Hoollore* in which songs and tunes were furnished by Surendra Nath Majumdar who held a very high position in the Income-Tax Department. In 1896 the *Bengali Tola Theatre* was founded by Pran Kumar Das, P. A. to Divisional Commissioner and Ugra Mohan Thakur of Barari as President and Vice-President respectively and it purchased for about Rs. 125 the stage and scenes of Bankipur (Sabjibagh) Theatre Party. Simultaneously *the Adampur Theatre Club* was founded by Kumar Satish Chandra Banerjee (son of Raja Shibchandra Banerjee) and another theatre party was formed at Champanagar by Mahashay Amarnath Ghosh and Jogi Singh. Krishna Acharya who had the good name as a singer created a Hindi Kirtan Party, some members of which after the death of Krishna Acharya, formed a Hindi Jatra Party.

At the suggestion of Upendra Nath Bagchi who witnessed the performance of D. L. Roy's "Durga Das" by young lawyers and educated persons, the *Sangit Samaj* was started and its first performance was Bankim Chandra's "Ananda Math", in which Charu Chandra Chaudhury, a Police Inspector, took a leading part and was discharged from Government service for this. After 1909 the *P. W. D. Theatre Club* was formed by the employees of the P. W. D. Office of the Executive Engineer and its stage was later handed over to the *Sangit Samaj* through the influence of Lalit Mohan Roy which is now flourishing in its own building on Patal Babu Road. The *Miloni Club* and other *Bhagalpur Art Players' Association* were founded by Ardhendu Mukherji, a reputed film director of Calcutta and Swarna Kamal Roy respectively but with the former's departure from Bhagalpur and the latter's death both became eventually defunct.

Bhagalpur has a very high standard of culture of music and arts and the *Jatra Parties* and the [illegible] of Bhagalpur both in

Hindi and Bengali have always attracted a large crowd. Bhagalpur has produced several cinema stars.

The ex-Zamindars like the Raj Banaili family have also helped in the maintenance of ancient culture and religion. The abolition of Zamindari has no doubt removed the intermediaries between the State and the tenants but there is a feeling among the people that the present *karamcharies* are no less oppressive than the *Amlas* of the old Zamindars. Since Zamindari abolition is a very recent event and there has not yet been a full implementation of post-abolition policy such as payment of compensation money to the Zamindars, etc., it is difficult to say how far such feeling is correct.

The contribution of the middle classes and professional groups of Bhagalpur district to the development of the district in the social and cultural field has been quite substantial. Bhagalpur in the last one century has had the benefit of brilliant lawyers, doctors and teachers some of whom are still remembered with gratitude. Many of the lawyers and doctors had earned lakhs during the life-time but had given portions of the earnings for the building up of a better Bhagalpur district.

It has, however, to be noted that the Zamindars and the other moneyed classes did not take much interest in trade, commerce or industry. Their investments were mostly in Zamindaries, cultivation lands, houses, buying ornaments or deposits in the banks. There has been very little of direct investment of their money for trade and commerce. As their income was not available as capital for business the Marwaris from beyond the district had an excellent field for business in this district. There are stories current how some Marwaris actually came with very little resources but remained to amass a fortune through business. At the moment the business market of Bhagalpur and Bhagalpur is one of the most important trade centres in the State is almost completely in the hands of the Marwaris, Gujratis and people who are not indigenous to Bhagalpur district. It is said that Kanpur has the largest colony of Marwaris and the next largest colony of Marwaris is in Bhagalpur. It is only in the recent decades that some of the indigenous families of the district and from other districts in the State have started taking interest in business in this district. They, however, have invested more in lines which were not taken up by the Marwaris such as starting of cinema houses, running transport vehicles, taking out licences under Price Control Measures, etc. The Zamindars as a class in this district as in some other districts of Bihar unfortunately saw to the locking up of capital which was not utilised for industrial or business purposes. Most of the capital remained in their hands and the other middle classes were not keen to enter into speculations or business deals. The abolition of Zamindari is expected to bring about a change.

It may also be mentioned here that as the after effects of Second Great War essential commodities were in a short supply and Price Control Measures had to be imposed. The implementation of the Government policy so far as the Price Control Measures are concerned brought into existence a new class of businessmen who did not have any training or acumen of business but mostly depended on their social affiliations for getting business deals through Price Control Measures. It is unfortunate that a good percentage of this class of Neo-business men should be commonly taken to be profiteers at the cost of the people. This may or may not be correct as a rule but the fact remains that suddenly a new rich class of people came into existence through War Economy and Price Control Measures. This class of people who have made themselves rich in the last one decade or fifteen years does not appear to have made much contribution to the development of the district and their savings have gone almost entirely to their personal coffers.

Impact of Zamindari Abolition on the Social Life of the People

The impact of the Zamindari abolition on the social life of the district is not inconsiderable. A fair percentage of the people of large income group forming a minority of the population belonged to the class of Zamindars. Many of such Zamindars had other income as well either from professions or business or otherwise. The large Zamindars used to let out their lands to small cultivators for the purpose of mutual benefit. It is true that they had the cushion of a certain amount of unearned income and some of them were oppressive or absentee landlords. At the same time it has to be mentioned that the contribution of some of the families of the Zamindars like Raja Shib Chandra Banerjee, Jhaua Kothi, Banaili, Dip Narayan Singh, the Thakur of Barani has been very considerable. Bhagalpur district has a number of educational, religious, social and cultural institutions owing to the liberal help received from rich Zamindar families. Dhandhania family has also given their contribution for various institutions.

The Zamindars had a sort of tacitly assumed leadership even if they did not deserve it. This was particularly noticeable in the rural areas. This was due more to the working of the system of Zamindari which had been set up by the British administrators with the double purpose of securing an assured revenue and maintaining law and order. The abolition of Zamindari has snatched away this tacit leadership from them and then sections which were not prominent before like large cultivators, labourers in industrial zones, landless labourers, career politicians, etc., have come into prominence. There has been a realignment of social values as a direct result of abolition of Zamindari. Many of the

Zamindars, big or small, after the abolition of Zamindari have been quite hard hit as for various reasons, the compensation could not be paid very quickly, and they lost the incidence of unearned income completely. Many of them have shifted to the urban areas and have taken to various types of business. The small income group or middle income group Zamindars have naturally been more hard hit financially apart from a loss of their social values. But they have more quickly adapted themselves to the changed circumstances.

In the rural areas, the cultivators, large and small, have been differently affected by the abolition of Zamindari. It is true the Zamindars have gone but in their place the *Karamcharis* of Land Reforms Section are busy in realising the rentals and for various reasons the *Karamcharis* have not been popular. It is not necessary to enter into the question whether the *Karamcharis* are being more sinned against than sinning but it is true that the period of adjustment is being prolonged and has not been very harmonious. Study in various villages somewhat brought out the same type of answer from the common villagers, whether big or small cultivators or labourers that they were not as happy as they had expected to be. In the urban areas the professional people like the lawyers or doctors have also been partially affected as the financial condition of the Zamindars and people connected with them has declined. The number of contested cases in the civil courts have definitely gone down and the scale of fees of the lawyers and doctors has had a proportionate decline.

The Zamindari abolition, however, did not create an unemployment so far as the domestic servants and the *Amlas* of the Zamindars were concerned. There has been a larger number of various services thrown open for employment in the Plan schemes and the domestic servants and the *Amlas* of the previous Zamindars have been quickly absorbed.

Charity has, however, definitely declined. The social, religious and educational institutions and the hospitals that have been sponsored by the Zamindars or other rich people have now to depend on State aid for their maintenance. If the State would not finance, many schools and colleges, libraries and art centres would close down.

It is doubtful if the businessmen have been visibly affected by the abolition of Zamindari. This is somewhat strange but probably the answer is in the fact that money has flowed into other unexpected quarters who are not allergic to use it. The common man has been definitely upgraded. There has been a liberal patronage of a large number of *Pan Biri* shops at the street corners and the large number of hotels and restaurants of indifferent kinds have been estab-

lished Throughout Bhagalpur. The rush to the cinema houses has gone up unabated. If the purchasing capacity of the people has been lowered there is definitely more of turnover helped by export. The silk goods of Bhagalpur have now a tremendous sale outside India, and the prices have also gone up considerably. It is, however, true that certain types of business have had a setback.

The service holders on fixed pay have not been much affected by the abolition of Zamindari but they are suffering from the indirect result of the abolition of a certain incidence of loss of employment and other incidental advantages of being associated with the Zamindars. But the service holders have been definitely affected otherwise by the spiral rise in the prices of commodities and keener competition for getting services.

The people belonging to the non-agricultural classes have not been affected vitally. On the other hand. they are now better off as their chances of employment are much more.

The most important impact of abolition of Zamindari has been in setting up forces in society that have contributed to the emergence of a better equipped common man which is much more conscious of his rights but unfortunately less conscious of his obligations. A whirlpool has been created by the abolition of Zamindari and social values are rapidly changing and we find that the importance of career politicians has tremendously gone up irrespective of their educational and cultural equipments while there has been somewhat of a setback of the social values of the professionals like teachers, doctors, lawyers and the educated common men who form the backbone of the middle classes. The impact of the abolition of Zamindari on the middle classes is indirect as the larger percentage of Zamindars were middle-class men and Zamindari was one of the avenues of income. It is the middle classes who had been the real leaders in spite of the heavy lead of the rich Zamindars. The middle-class families of Bhagalpur district brought lustre to the professions of teachers, doctors, lawyers, etc., and they fought the freedom's battle in the front rank. It will be tragedy if the decline of the middle classes is not stopped immediately.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

LAND RECLAMATION AND UTILISATION

Bhagalpur district has an area of 1,397,824 acres including unsurveyed area according to 1951 census out of which 217,022 acres were culturable waste lands. Out of a total population of 14,29,069, 1,158,703 or 81.1 per cent were engaged in agricultural occupations. In order to reclaim culturable waste lands, the Bihar Waste Land Reclamation, Cultivation and Improvement Act was passed in 1946. The Waste Land Reclamation Section is under the Revenue Department. There is a Waste Land Reclamation Officer for the district whose headquarters is located at Banka. He is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur.

Manual reclamation of waste lands is encouraged by the distribution of Land Improvement Loans. The District Development Office at Bhagalpur maintains the figures of areas reclaimed under Land Improvement Loans but there are no separate figures to show the actual amount of Land Improvement Loans given for the waste land reclamation purpose.* An enquiry shows that the rate is usually Rs. 100 as loan for reclamation of one acre of land.

The following figures of reclamation of waste land were supplied by the District Development Office:—

Year.	Area in acres reclaimed by Land Improvement Loan.
1951-52	5,320
1952-53	1,500
1953-54	310
1954-55	800
1955-56	70
1956-57	150
1957-58	40
1958-59	310

The Act has provision for settlement of waste lands for reclamation purposes under Waste Land Reclamation Act. Loans are also given for the purchase of tractors for mechanised reclamation of larger consolidated areas. Encouragement is also given to persons to reclaim waste lands by tractors without taking loans in the shape of giving technical advice.

Under all these different heads the return from 1951-52 to 1959-60 is nil. The initial of 5,320 acres reclaimed in 1951-52, if correct, has had a remarkable decline in 1955-56 and in 1957-58

*Such loan figures are included in the Statistics on page 210.

only 70 and 40 acres were reported to be reclaimed respectively. Information regarding the yield of the reclaimed areas was not available in the District Development Office. It cannot be said, therefore, that the Waste Land Reclamation Section has been able to go much ahead in this district. The area reclaimed in 1960-61 is 52.16 acres against the target of 500 acres. The reason of low progress is due to the fact that the people of the area were not ready to deposit Rs. 10 per acre in cash as laid down in Government Circular no. 1084-W.L.R.(R), dated 26th March, 1960.

The statement below shows the classification of areas (in thousand acres) during 1953-54, 1954-55 and 1955-56* for the district of Bhagalpur—

Year.	Forest.	Not available for cultivation.	Other uncultivable land excluding current fallow.	Current fallow.	Net area sown.	Total area of the district.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1953-54 ..	101	148	40	215	879	1,384
1954-55 ..	101	172	69	115	928	1,384
1955-56 ..	160	133	24	154	890	1,384

Year.	Bhadai. crops.	Aghani. crops.	Rabi. crops.	Fruits.	Potatoes.	Vegetables including root crops.	Total area sown.	Area sown more than once.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1953-54 ..	126	526	298	11	2	3	966	87
1954-55 ..	116	582	344	12	3	4	1,001	74
1955-56 ..	120	538	287	8	3	—	958	75

A scrutiny of the statement will show that there has been variation in the net areas sown which will be easily explained by the fact that this totally depends upon the season of the year and if it rains in right quantity and at the right time, the areas

*Bihar Statistical Handbook, 1955, pp. 24—26.

under cultivation automatically increase. There has also been decrease in the areas of current fallow which shows that people are taking steps not to allow land to lie fallow. According to the Revenue Department, W.L.R. Section Circular no. 1673-W.L.R., dated 19th November 1955, rupees 100 are being given as subsidy to the cultivators of Banka Subdivision, Shahkund, Pirpainty and Cologong Police Stations to encourage the reclamation of waste lands in the lateritic tracts into paddy-fields. But the response is not encouraging.

There has been a decrease in the area under fruit trees in 1955-56. Most of the fruit orchards belonging to Zamindars were either sold or brought under cultivation just before the abolition of Zamindari was undertaken.

IRRIGATION

The main occupation of the people of Bhagalpur district is agriculture. But agriculture depends mainly on the availability of water at proper time and in proper quantities. Lack or excess of water tells on the crop prospects. The main source of water has been rainfall. Rainfall is not a dependable source of water and irrigation facilities are essential. In pre-zamindari abolition days the zamindars used to maintain *ahars* and *pynes* which served the purposes both of irrigation and drainage. Besides these channels there were and there are still wells for irrigational purposes.

The normal rainfall of the district is 45.98.* The total rainfall of the district as taken from the Bihar Statistical Handbook, 1955, pp. 16-17 year by year is given below:—

1943-44	..	..	..	39.41″
1946-47	..	..	..	56.67″
1947-48	..	..	..	41.02″
1948-49	..	..	..	42.90″
1949-50	..	..	..	55.55″
1950-51	..	..	..	51.56″
1951-52	..	..	..	42.96″
1952-53	..	.	..	43-51″
1953-54	..	..	..	46.21″**
1954-55	..	..	..	44.80″
1955-56	..	..	..	43.99″

The following figures of annual rainfall have been obtained from the office of the District Statistical Officer, Bhagalpur:—

1957 ..	..	..	..	37.09″
1958 ..	..	..	..	44.40″
1959 ..	..	..	..	52.41″
1960 ..	..	..	..	50.73″

*Bihar Statistical Handbook, 1955.
**Revised by Dy. D.G.O. in 1944.

A rational distribution of rainfall in different seasons is necessary for proper cultivation and good harvest. Rainfall in the last week of May or first week of June is beneficial for *bhadai* crops, for it helps in sowing these crops. Rainfall during the last week of July and 1st week of August is essential for transplantation of paddy. Rainfall in the month of October determines the yield of paddy and also helps in preparation of land for *rabi* crops and keep the soil moist for growth of *rabi* though these crops require rain at intervals also for their proper growth and good yield. *Hathia* rains in October in moderation is very beneficial but an excess of *Hathia* rainfall, as in 1961, may cause a great damage.

The importance of timely rains has its echo in some well-known proverbs:—

(1) "*Sathi Pake Sath Din, Barsa Howe rat Din*", i.e., *Sathi* paddy ripens in sixty days if it rains all day and night.

(2) "*Veda vedita Nahowe Aan, Bina Tula Nahi Pothe Dhan*", i.e., the words of Vedas are infallible and paddy cannot ripen before *Lebra* or *Kartik* (October).

(3) "*Keya Rohin Barsa Kare Bache Jaith Nit Bhor, Ek Bond Kartiku Pare Nase Tinoo Toon*", i.e., what can rainfall in *Rohin* do to save seedlings in *Jaith* when a drop of rainfall in *kartik* makes all crops fail ?

(4) "*Uttra Utter Dehaye, Hast Gaye Mukh Moor, Bhali Bechari Chitra Parja Legaye Bahoor*", i.e., when *Uttra* and *Hathia* fail in producing rainfall, *Chitra* comes to rescue the cultivators and saves the crops.

(5) "*Jo Purva Purvai Pavai, Sukhi Nadai Naw Chalawai*", i.e., if easterly wind blows in *Purva* it is likely that all the dry rivers will be navigable.

Situations arising out of lack of timely sufficient rains can be met only by irrigation. The physiography of the portion of the district north of the Ganga does not require much irrigation facilities. The moisture of the soil does not dry up soon.

A very accurate information regarding irrigational facilities in the past is not available. Francis Buchanan in his "An account of the District of Bhagalpur in 1810-11" merely mentions that irrigation was needed for agricultural purposes and that *Bundhs* and reservoirs were the main sources. He does not give much of details.

Captain Sherwill in his "Geographical and Statistical Report of the District of Bhagalpoor, 1869" mentions as follows:—

> "Irrigation, whenever, practicable, is recorded either from streams, or from tanks, or from wells, the level land before alluded to, as situated to the north of the southern hills and south to the Ganges, is universally irrigated, producing fine crops of rice, mustard, castor oil, murrooa, Kesari, sugarcane, gram, besides many of the smaller crops."

From Hunter's "A Statistical Account of Bengal, Volume XIV, district of Bhagalpur," it is gathered that due to slopy lands in south Bhagalpur it did not retain water and small streams dried up soon which made irrigation an absolute necessity. Irrigation was effected by small artificial channels leading off from a head of water collected by means of a dam, known as *dhar bundh* in one of the hill streams, and by wells. Sugarcane was irrigated in the cold weather from wells. The usual implement used for raising water was an earthen pot suspended from one end of a bamboo lever. The irrigation was done entirely by the landholders who appointed petty officers to distribute the water. The irrigation in the rice fields was generally done during the rainy season when long intervals of dry weather occurred and during the month of October(*Kartik*) when the rains usually ceased. At this time mountain torrents contained a quantity of water which was turned into the canals by temporary dams. In the rainy season, the rivers were sufficiently high to allow the water to enter the mouths of the canals without dams. Each cultivator made small dams across the canals in order to force the water upon his own fields and when these had received their allowance, the dams were broken and the water was permitted to run to the next cultivator's land.

A more detailed and up-to-date information on irrigational facilities in the district of Bhagalpur is available from the last "District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur" by J. Byrne, I.C.S. (1911).

Byrne had also stressed on the indispensable need of irrigation in South Bhagalpur. During his time irrigation was generally effected by leading off water from a natural stream or from a head of water collected in a *bundh* or tank. The channels were called *Danrhs* and their small branches were called *Singhas.* They were generally maintained by the landlords and the tenants were simply asked to supply labour for their repairs. The *Danrhs* and *Singhas* were mostly used for irrigating paddy fields during July to November. Wells were also used for irrigation purposes but generally they were used for special crops, such as, sugarcane

or tubers. *Rabi* fields were generally irrigated by *Danrhs*. But the landlords did not take any interest in them and the tenants occasionally dug holes (called *Bhaw*) and drew out water with buckets for irrigating agricultural fields.

From Settlement Department Byrne collected the information that the total length of the water channels was 892.65 miles and 646 villages with an area of 406.20 square miles were dependant on them for irrigation.

During the period from 1911 till the introduction of the First Five Year Plan in 1951 it was mainly the zamindars who made arrangements for irrigation. But some 230 minor irrigation schemes like *bundhs* (low mud walls thrown across a stream), *danrhs* (channels taken out from a rivulet or stream), tanks and protective embankments were taken in hand between the years 1947 to 1951. Realising the importance of irrigation for agriculture, the State Government drew up schemes for irrigation and started work on some of these schemes. Some of the schemes are described below:—

MAJOR SCHEMES

(1) *Gebua weir scheme.*—It is 110 feet long *pucca* weir on river Gebua in village Jamin P. S. Mufassil at a distance of about 6 miles from Bhagalpur. Two channels have been constructed from this weir, the one on the right bank being 5,100 feet long and the other on the left bank 4,400 feet long. They irrigate about 2,500 acres of land in the neighbouring villages. The work was begun in the year 1950 and completed in 1952 at a cost of Rs. 1,01,665.

(2) *Sonhaula-Tarar Irrigation Scheme.*—It is situated in village Ghoria, P. S. Sonhaula on the 9th mile of Ghoghar-Sonhaula road. It has a *pucca* weir 5 feet high and 110 feet long across the river Gahira. It has one canal 7 miles and 14.40 chains long and irrigates 5,000 acres of land. It was constructed at a cost of Rs. 6,08,316. It was begun in 1951 and completed in 1957.

(3) *Mahmuda Irrigation Scheme.*—It is situated in village Kajia, P. S. Jagdishpur on the 11th mile on Bhagalpur-Amarpur *Katcha* road. There is a weir 370 feet long on the river Andhari. A canal 2 miles long has been taken out of it which irrigates 47,000 acres of land. The scheme was started in 1954 and completed in 1956 at a cost of Rs. 3.81,625.

(4) *Chandan-Bilasi Irrigation Scheme.*—This scheme is situated near village Kabulichak, P. S. Amarpur. In this scheme river Bilasi is fed from river Chandan through a canal constructed for this

purpose. In order that waters of river Chandan might flow into the Bilasi river, a head regulator has been constructed on the river Chandan. The canal taken out in this scheme is an inundation canal. The canal is 6½ miles long and irrigates 17,000 acres of land. The work was taken in hand in 1954 and completed in 1957 at a cost of Rs. 13,72,317.

(5) *Chandan Reservoir Project.*—This scheme has under its command Kajia Danr Irrigation Scheme Phase I and Kajia Irrigation Scheme Phase II. Kajia Danr Irrigation Scheme Phase I is situated in village Madiha, P. S. Banka on the 6th mile of Banka-Deoghar road via village Mahasadih. It has an earth *bundh* 1,200 feet long and irrigates 400 acres of land. It was begun in 1954 and completed in 1956 at a cost of Rs. 51,110. Kajia Irrigation Scheme Phase II has got a weir 800 feet long situated in village Ikoria, P. S. Banka and has been constructed in 1957-58 at a cost of Rs. 16,35,023. The main Chandan Reservoir Project Phase I which is expected to irrigate 47,000 acres of land is situated in village Ikoria, P. S. Banka and will have a main canal 11 miles long with 40 miles long branch canal and 105 miles of distributaries. It will irrigate the area between village Ikoria, P. S. Banka and villages Ghogha and Persadih in P. S. Sonhaula. It will thus serve Banka, Rajaun, Dhoraiya, Sonhaula and Jagdishpur Police Stations. The scheme was started in the year 1958 and is still under execution. The scheme is expected to cost Rs. 41.96 lakhs.

(6) *Badua Reservoir Irrigation Project.*—The dam for this reservoir is located in village Bijikhorwa, P. S. Belhar in the district. The dam is across river Badua in village Bijikhorwa, P. S. Belhar, district Bhagalpur. It is 132 feet high and 1,600 feet long. The bottom width is 25 feet. When the project is completed the total length of the main canal will be 911 chains that is approximately 17½ miles. The branch canals will be 1,814 chains about 34.7 miles long and the distributaries will be 2,680 chains 51.3 miles long. The work when completed will cover Belhar and Shambhuganj Police-stations of Bhagalpur district and a portion of Monghyr district. When completed it is expected to irrigate 1.05 lakh acres of land and the cost will come to Rs. 4.26 crores. The work was begun in January, 1958 and is expected to be completed by 1963.

Medium Schemes

During the First Five Year Plan period, 28 medium irrigation schemes were taken up and completed at a cost of about 5½ lakhs of rupees benefiting 40,000 acres of land in the district. During the second Five Year Plan period, 18 schemes costing about 3½ lakhs of rupees were taken up and completed. These irrigate

about 14,390 acres of land in the district. During the Third Five Year Plan period 9 schemes are already under execution. These schemes are likely to cost 2,37,000 rupees and to irrigate 7,700 acres of land. A detailed list of medium irrigation schemes already executed and also under execution from 1950 to 1960 is appended herewith.

MEDIUM IRRIGATION SCHEMES ALREADY EXECUTED

Serial no.	Name of scheme.	Nature of scheme.	Location.	Cost.	Area expected to be benefited.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs.	Acres.
1	Construction of a sluice gate in a *bandh*.	Irrigational scheme—*Bandh*.	Vill. Madrauni, P. S Gopalpur.	8,298	1,000
2	Construction of *Dam* ..	*Dam* ..	Kumri, P.S. Belhar	26,009	3,000
3	Repair of *Bandh* and construction of sluice gate.	*Bandh* ..	Bangama, P. S. Amarpur.	7,575	300
4	Construction of marginal embankment.	Embankment	Kaharpur, P. S. Bihpur.	7,907	400
5	Repair of *Bandh* and construction of sluice gate.	*Bandh* ..	Ghogha, P.S. Amarpur.	8,415	300
6	Repair of *Bandh* and construction of sluice gate.	*Bandh* ..	Chakmal, P. S. Amarpur.	7,752	550
7	Repair of *Bandh* and construction of sluice gate.	*Bandh* ..	Chakmal, P. S. Amarpur.	8,002	650
8	Construction of sluice gate.	Sluice gate ..	Rampurdarhi, P. S. Amarpur.	20,454	1,000
9	Repair of Burhwa *Bandh* and construction of sluice gate.	*Bandh* ..	Kodanda, P. S. Shahkund.	7,042	523
10	Construction of sluice gate.	Sluice gate	Ratanpur, P. S. Sultanganj.	10,302	1,500
11	Construction of sluice gate.	Sluice gate ..	Sarha, P. S. Shahkund.	16,320	1,100
12	Construction of sluice gate.	Sluice gate ..	Kaprona, P. S. Sahkund.	20,796	1,310
13	Construction of sluice gate in Buchha *Bandh*.	*Bandh* ..	Majhagain, P. S. Amarpur.	7,575	300

Serial no.	Name of scheme.	Nature of scheme.	Location.	Cost.	Area expected to be benefited.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs.	Acres.
14	Repair of Chakmal *Bandh* and construction of sluice gate.	*Bandh* ..	Chakmal, P. S. Amarpur.	48,209	3,200
15	Construction of a new tank.	Tank ..	Katiama, P. S. Rajaun.	7,328	261
16	Construction of a sub-merged weir.	Weir ..	Majhagain, P. S. Rajaun.	16,099	850
17	Repair and strengthening of *Bandh*.	*Bandh* ..	Barauni, P. S. Rajaun.	15,546	5,000
18	Construction of sub-merged weir.	Weir ..	Barauni, P. S. Rajaun.	22,391	1,500
19	Construction of sluice gate in Barki *Bandh*.	*Bandh*	Gulmi, P. S. Amarpur.	9,968	308
20	Repair of *Danr* and construction of sluice gate.	*Danr* ..	Ajitnagar to Khaira, P. S. Rajaun.	19,780	5,000
21	Repair of Majhgai *Bandh*	*Bandh* ..	Bagha, P. S. Amarpur.	26,905	2,850
22	Construction of sluice gate in Barua stream.	Stream ..	Titahi, P. S. Amarpur	10,341	223
23	Construction of sluice gate.	Sluice gate ..	Bolthu, P. S. Shahkund.	18,836	802
24	Construction of sulice gate.	Sluice gate	Pahlampur, P. S. Amarpur.	31.947	1,275
25	Repair of *bandh* and weir	*Bandh* ..	Lakha, P. S. Amarpur.	20,624	634
26	Construction of sluice gate in Jogthan *Bandh*.	*Bandh* ..	Tetahi, P. S. Amarpur.	36,380	1,580
27	Construction of sluice gate in Gahira river.	Rivergate ..	Junki, P. S. Dhuraiya.	46,962	998
28	Construction of sluice gate and redoepening of *Danr* (Kumari to Sarkatia).	*Danr* ..	Kumari, P. S. Belhar.	56,399	4,450
29	Repair of *Bandh* and construction of weir.	*Bandh* ..	Birina, P. S. Bounsi	12,373	200
30	Construction of sluice gate.	Sluice gate ..	Chalua, P. S. Dhuraiya.	6,316	220
31	Construction of sluice gate and repair of *Danr* with escape.	*Danr* ..	Kusmi, P. S. Dhuraiya.	85,037	1,921

Serial no.	Name of scheme.	Nature of scheme.	Location.	Cost.	Area expected to be benefited.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs.	Acres.
32	Construction of sluice gate.	Sluice gate ..	Bhalua, P. S. Amarpur.	13,207	350
33	Construction of sluice gate across a *Danr*.	*Danr* ..	Chalua, P.S. Dhuraiya.	6,996	200
34	Construction of sluice gate across Kadma river.	River gate	Tarcha, P.S. Mufassil.	41,026	950
35	Construction of sluice gate in Jogia *Bandh*.	*Bandh* ..	Mukheria, P.S. Mufassil.	11,902	700
36	Construction of sluice gate and excavation of *Pyne*.	*Pyne* ..	Daulatpur, P.S. Shahkund.	42,883	1,207
37	Construction of sluice gate and repairing of *Bandh*.	*Bandh* ..	Baijnathpur, P.S. Dhuraiya.	40,928	2;000
38	Construction of sluice gate across Raj *Danr*.	*Danr* ..	Majghgain, P.S. Dhuraiya.	15,370	1,497
39	Repair of Bank and construction of Aqueduct and escape.	Aqueduct ..	Majhgain, P.S. Rajaun.	13,943	850
40	Construction of sluice gate across Gahira River (Mahua *Bandh*)	*Bandh* ..	Titihi, P.S. Amarpur.	34,689	466
41	Construction of west weir and repair of *Bandh*, etc.	*Bandh* ..	Dusadi, P.S. Banka.	42,289	2,000
42	Repair of Tetoria *Bandh* and construction of sluice gate.	*Bandh* ..	Madhiyagiri, P.S. Katoria.	11,945	400
43	Construction of sluice gate regulator.	Sluice gate	Pista, P.S. Mufassil.	28,681	1,000
44	Repair of Lakra *Bandh* with construction of escape weir.	*Bandh* ..	Lakra, P.S. Katoria.	14,176	200
45	Repair of an old *Bandh* and repair of existing sluice gate.	*Bandh* ..	Chichraun, P.S. Sultanganj.	10,393	374
46	Construction of a sluice gate regulator and repair of existing *Danr*.	*Danr* ..	Uparli Bhalua, P. S. Amarpur.	13,275	355

MEDIUM IRRIGATION SCHEMES UNDER EXECUTION

Serial no.	Name of Scheme.	Nature of Scheme.	Location.	Cost.	Area expected to be benefited.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs.	Acres.
1	Construction of sluice gate in Raj *Danr*, etc.	*Danr* ..	Ramkoli, P. S. Dhuraiya.	33,706	1,500
2	Construction of an escape weir.	Weir ..	Amgachhi, P. S. Bounsi.	23,710	1,599
3	Construction of *bandh* and escape weir, etc.	*Bandh* ..	Lalmatia, P. S. Banka.	16,865	425
4	Improvement of *Katsha bandh* and construction of weir and two regulators.	*Bandh* ..	Gidhoura, P. S. Shambhuganj.	51,456	1,500
	Construction of sluice gates and culvert in Ramni Jamni river and repair of the adjourning *bandh*.	*Bandh* ..	Pasraha Tola Kiranpur, P. S. Sultanganj.	43,027	1,500
6	Repair of Dhawa *bandh* and construction of sluice gates, etc.	*Bandh* ..	Dhawa, P. S. Katoria.	15,904	278
7	Construction of sluice gate.	Sluice gate	Jhikulia, P. S. Belhar.	30,048	300
8	Construction of a sluice gate and repair of *bandh*.	*Bundh* ..	Bhuriya. P. S. Sonhaula.	12,432	..
9	Construction of sluice gate regulator across *Danr*.	*Danr* ..	Jogibagha, P. S. Sambhuganj.	10,277	290

Minor schemes

Minor irrigation schemes include *bunds*, *danrs*, tanks, small protective embankments, etc., as well as repairs to old minor irrigation works that had been carried out by the zamindars in the zamindari days. These minor irrigation works were since achivement of independence, carried out by three agencies, one under the Revenue Department which undertook 2,893 schemes at a total cost of Rs. 43,35,851, the second by the Agriculture Department which undertook 77 schemes at a total cost of Rs. 1,08,448 and by the Community Development Department figures for which are not

available. Now these works will be carried out by the unified Agency for Minor Irrigation. This agency was created in Government Order no. IDS-0169/59-Agri—30380, dated the 23rd December 1959/2nd January, 1960. An Additional Director of Agriculture (Engineering) has been appointed to be in charge of this agency. He will be responsible for all minor and medium schemes costing up to Rs. 1 lakh throughout the State irrespective of budget heads from which these schemes are financed. The schemes will include the following :—

(1) Medium *Ahars*, *Pynes*, *Bundhs*, etc., costing between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 1 lakh.

(2) Minor *Ahars*, *Pynes*, *Bundhs*, etc., costing up to Rs. 10,000.

(3) Installation of private tube-wells.

(4) Open Borings with and without strainers.

(5) Surface percolation wells.

(6) *Rahat* pumps.

(7) Distribution and maintenance of irrigation pumping sets including mobile and other pumping sets under loaning scheme.

(8) Distribution of small irrigation pumps.

The following statement will show the construction of wells, tube-wells, open boring with strainer, open boring without strainer under the First and Second Five Year Plans.

	First Five Year Plan.	Second Five Year Plan.
Wells	630	2,202
Tube-wells	5	11
Open boring with strainer ..	11	90
Ditto without strainer ..	328	618

Fifty two *Rahat* pumps and 139 pumping sets were distributed in the First Five Year Plan and 33 *Rahat* pumps and 32 pumping sets were distributed in the Second Five Year Plan.

Protective Bundhs

In north Bhagalpur, North-Eastern Railway embankment serves the purpose of protecting the area north of it from the floods caused by the Ganga, but it acts against the natural drainage of any flood waters coming from the north.

The railway embankments on the Eastern Railway on the loop and the Bhagalpur-Mandar Hills lines also serve as flood protective embankments.

Besides these railway embankments Government took up construction of some embankments in the district. The more important are as follows :—

(1) *Marginal embankment schemes on both sides of the river Khalkhalia*.—It was constructed at a cost of Rs. 4,52,773. The embankment on the right bank of the river is 29,044 feet long and that of the left bank 27,200 feet long. These embankments protect an area of 4,600 acres of land. The work was begun in 1951 and completed in 1952.

(2) *Sultanganj Town Protection Scheme*.—This is intended to protect the Sultanganj town from the ravages of floods of the Ganga. The length of the embankment is 1,100 feet and has to be renewed practically every year. In 1957 the *bundhs* were constructed at a cost of Rs.19,337. The work undertaken in 1960 is still under construction and is expected to cost Rs. 54,747.

(3) *Gogri-Narainpur Embankment*.—It starts from the village Gogri in continuation of the old Gogri embankment and terminates in the North-Eastern Railway embankment just east of Narainpur Railway Station. Nearly 27 miles long embankment lies on the left bank of the Ganga and Burhi Gandak. It protects the area surrounded by the railway embankment on the north and the embankment itself on the other side.

It has been practically completed and benefits are occurring to 27,000 acres of land at present. An expenditure of Rs. 15.23 lakhs has been incurred over it during, 1951—56.

(4) *Marginal Embankment at Kaharpur, P. S. Bihpur*.—It protects an area of 400 acres. It was begun in 1950 and completed in 1951 at a cost of Rs. 7,907.

In addition to these, minor embankments have been constructed in Shahkund, Nathnagar, Naugachhia and Gopalpur police stations in the district.

AGRICULTURE INCLUDING HORTICULTURE

Soil and Crops

In this district soil may broadly be classified into different types—

Karaior or Karior.—The soil is blackish in colour and is difficult to plough when dry. This is best suited for winter rice. The soil is mostly found in Shahkund, Sonhaula and Sultanganj police stations in Sadar

subdivision and in Belhar police station in Banka subdivision.

Kewal.—The soil is also of blackish colour and is suitable for almost all crops except maize, *kurthi*, etc. The soil is called *char* when it goes under water during flood in the river Ganga. It is found mostly in Pirpainty, Colgong and Sultanganj police stations.

Gori-Mitti.—The soil is of reddish-yellow colour. It is most suitable for paddy plantation and ordinarily suitable for all kinds of crops if irrigated. This type of soil is mostly found near the hills in Pirpainty, Colgong, Katoria, Banka and Bounsi police stations.

Pasroti.—The soil is of whitish colour. It is mostly found in Bounsi police station and is suitable for *aghani* crops.

Loam.—Regarding this, J. Byrne has mentioned in the Bhagalpur District Gazetteer (1911) as follows:—

"Loamy soils are known as *doras*. If low-lying, winter rice is grown on them generally; if high, various *bhadoi* and *rabi* crops do well on them. This class of soil is found around old village-sites where it receives cow-dung and all sorts of household refuse. It is then generally called *dih*, or *goora*, and it is sown with potatoes, vegetables, tobacco, chillies, etc. In low situations, loamy soils are called *tari*, and all crops except maize, *kurthi*, etc., will do well on them."

Sandy soil.—This is known as *balmut*. J. Byrne refers to it as follows:—

"*Balmut* is a sandy loam that will grow anything. *Dhus* is the name given to sandy loam in the Gangetic diara. As it is submerged when the river is in flood, it is used for *rabi* crops only. These crops thrive in it exceedingly.

"Soil that is almost pure sand is called simply *balu*. When a thin layer of silt (three to six inches thick) is deposited on the top of sand, it is called *palpar*."

Diara.—*Diara* is a sandy land formed due to the change in the course of a river. It is an extremely interesting process of soil formation. Somewhere the velocity of the water is checked sufficiently which allows the suspended matter to be deposited. The building up process continues till the sand bank appears at ordinary water

level. The water lying stagnant deposits clay and silt on the sand. Each succeeding flood deepens the layer of clay. This process gives formation to *diara* which rises above flood level. The *diara* land can produce excellent crops both autumn and spring but there is no certainty of the *bhadai* crops because of the flood water.

The following are the distribution of land according to their level in different parts of the district:—

High lands.—Katoria, Chandan, parts of Banka and parts of Bounsi blocks situated in Banka subdivision have high lands.

Level lands.—The rest part of South Bhagalpur and entire area of North Bhagalpur are mainly level lands.

Low lands.—Parts of Jagdishpur, Nathnagar and Sabour Blocks are low lands. These are liable to inundation.

Diara lands.—Parts of Pirpainty, Colgong, Sabour, Nathnagar, Gopalpur, Bihpur, Naugachhia and Sultanganj are *Diara* lands situated in Sadar subdivision.

Hills and hillocks.—Parts of Bounsi, Banka, Katoria and Chandan Blocks are hilly areas, situated in Banka subdivision. Parts of Pirpainty, Colgong and Shahkund Blocks are also hilly areas, situated in Sadar subdivision. The hills are small in height and usually within 1,000 feet.

Crops.—Regarding crops and cultivation J. Byrne, I.C.S. has mentioned in the last Bhagalpur District Gazetteer (1911) as follows:—"The total area of the district may be classified as follows from the point of view of agriculture. The actual figures are those furnished by the Settlement Department :—

	Acres.*
Total area .. .. —	2,654,620
Uncultivable area	261,016
Cultivable waste other than fallow	396,327
Current fallow	63,561
Net cropped area	1,684,107

"Following the usual division into *rabi* (spring), *bhadoi* (autumn), and *aghani* (winter) harvests, the following areas are cultivated for each of these harvests:—

	Acres.
Rabi crops	731,560
Bhadoi crops	458,477
Aghani crops	1,070,265
Total area under crops	2,260,302

*This includes 249,609 acres which were only surveyed topographically, for which no detailed records were prepared and no statistics compiled. About half this area would be entirely uncultivable and the other half "cultivable waste".

The municipal areas, 6,4?0 acres, are also included in this total. No agricultural statistics were compiled except for the purely rural areas of the municipalities.

"As usual, a large proportion of the lands can bear two harvests. In the year for which figures are quoted, not less than 576,195 acres bore two crops. Deducting this from the total just shown we arrive at the net cropped area of 1,684,107 acres.

"The following table gives all the principal crops grown in the district, with the assumed normal area under each crop, and the actual area sown with each crop during the settlement operations.

Class.	Name.	Assumed normal acreage.*.	Actual acreage.
Cereals and pulses ..	1. Rice	1,615,200	997,760
	2. Wheat	203,200	110,518
	3. Barley	68,900	62,739
	4. Millet (*Cholum* or *Joar*)	22,000	10,373
	5. Marua	123,100	142,683
	6. Maize	242,600	114,375
	7. Gram	73,700	99,203
	8. Pulses, etc. ..	203,100	435,145
Oil seeds	9. Linseed	14,100	94,622
	10. Til	2,900	4,256
	11. Mustard	38,200	65,524
	12. Others	17,200	17,372
Condiments and spices ..	13. Various	1,000	2,672
Sugarcane	14. Sugar	63,700	10,768
Fibres	15. Cotton	14,000	503
	16. Jute	22,400	816
Dyes	17. Indigo	13,000	5,408
Narcotics	18. Opium	600	463
	19. Tobacco	8,000	2,302
Orchards and gardens ..	20. Various	22,700	39,795
Miscellaneous	21. Food crops	69,600	21,515
	22. Non-food crops ..	87,600	1,590

"In spite of some marked variations from the normal it is obvious that the rice crop is far and away the most important crop in the district. Under the heading "Oil seeds" there is a marked tendency to an increase and probably the accepted figures for normal acreage will need to be revised soon in respect of these

*Normal areas are taken from the "Agricultural Statistics".

crops just as a permanent diminution is indicated under the headings Indigo (17) and Sugarcane (14)."

Saharsa which is now a separate district was formed out of the areas comprising about one half of the old Bhagalpur district in Byrne's time. The present total area of the district according to 1951 census was 1,397,824 acres (Geographical area including unsurveyed areas). The following statement will show the classification of areas from 1952-53 to 1955-56.*

* *Bihar Statistical Handbook*, 1955 published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics. Government of Bihar.

(IN THOUSANDS OF ACRES.)

Year.	Forest.	Not available for cultivation.	Other uncultivated land excluding current fallow.	Current fallow.	Net area sown.	Total area of the district.	*Bhadai*.	*Aghani*.	*Rabi*.	Fruits.	Potatoes.	Vegetable including root crops.	Total area sown.	Area sown more than once.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1952-53 ..	90	1,99	45	2,15	8,35	13,84	1,23	4,71	4,03	12	3	3	10,14	1,79
1953-54 ..	1,01	1,48	40	2,15	8,79	13,84	1,26	5,26	2,98	11	2	3	9,66	87
1954-55 ..	1,01	1,72	69	1,15	9,28	13,84	1,16	5,32	3,44	12	3	4	10,01	74
1955-56 ..	1,40	1,33	24	1,54	8,90	13.84	1,20	5,38	2,87	8	3	..	9,58	75

According to 1951 Census the picture of cultivation in Bhagalpur district will be shown in the following charts:—

(a) *Classification of land in acres.*

Total area (Geographical area including unsurveyed).	Net area sown.	Area sown more than once.	Current fallows.	Area under orchard.	Cultivable waste.	Not available for cultivation.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1,897,824	744,967	263,067	111,195	8,910	217,022	315,730

*(b) Progress of cultivation during three decades.**

Average net area sown in acres.				Average area sown more than once in acres.				Area under principal crops.*			
1951.	1941.	1931.	1921.	1951.	1941.	1931.	1921.	Rice	Wheat.	Maize.	Gram.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
744,967	648,812	712,962	762,366	263,067	185,550	154,414	251.061	374,725	47,011	129,527	75,313

The above statistics compared with the statistics of Sadar and Banka subdivisions in Byrne's time now constituting Bhagalpur district indicate little change in the cultivable areas.

Paddy.—Paddy is the important crop of Bhagalpur. Transplantation method is generally used but broadcasting is also practised.

Aghani.—Aghani or winter rice is generally cultivated on level low lands, although some species are grown on comparatively high soils. The following yearwise figures supplied by the office of the Deputy Director

* District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur, 1956 (P. 118—119).

of Agriculture, Bhagalpur will show the acreage and outturn of winter rice in the district from 1949-50 to 1960-61 ;—

Year.	Area in acres.	Outturn in tons.
1949-50	476,720	173,967
1950-51	584,361	134,993
1951-52	416,222	130,572
1952-53	420,619	86,621
1953-54	492,065	147,874
1954-55	485,213	85,640
1955-56	509,251	144,563
1956-57	361,231	111,853
1957-58	302,518	42,324
1958-59	434,813	199,351
1959-60	398,031	152,041
1960-61	392,508	189,791

The early months of spring are the most suitable time for preparing land not bearing a second crop, by repeated ploughing.

In May, after a good shower the field for cultivation is ploughed about four times and seed is thickly scattered over it. Another field is prepared for transplantation when the seedlings make their appearance. The rain usually sets in by that time and the land is made to retain water in it. It is repeatedly ploughed and the whole field is reduced to thick mud. The young seedlings are then taken out of the nursery and transplanted in rows at about a distance of 8 to 9 inches.

Aghani or winter paddy is sometimes sown broadcast but this method is less productive. If there is sufficient rain in early April and May, transplantation is convenient, but if as often happens, there is no rain until the usual rain begins in the middle of June, it is broadcast and transplantation is done at the places where the sources of irrigation are available. The distribution and the quantity of rainfall determine the fate of the harvest.

Bhadai or autumn rice is generally sown on high land. The field is ploughed 10 to 12 times after the first showers of spring and seed is broadcast either in April or May.

Its yield per acre is less than the transplanted *aghani* or winter rice, but its cultivation is easier and involves less labour. The following yearwise figures supplied by the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bhagalpur show the acreage and outturn of *bhadai* or autumn rice in the district.

Year.	Area in acres.	Outturn in tons.
1949-50	22,309	5,749
1950-51	3,160	3,644
1951-52	3,226	4,463
1952-53	2,078	301
1953-54	1,538	280
1954-55	1,416	232
1955-56	2,673	575
1956-57	1,692	276
1957-58	1,149	165
1958-59	3,275	369
1959-60	2,311	401
1960-61	2,074	379

Harvest.—Paddy is reaped by cutting off the ears (*sish*), with about a foot and a half of the stem of a plant attached. Then it is tied up in bundles (*bojha*) and carried to the threshing floor. The threshing floor is usually prepared by merely cutting off the surface turf. A bamboo is drived into the ground in the middle of the cleared area. Around the bamboos sheaves or the bundles are placed and a number of cattle are brought in. They are tied neck to the bamboo. They are driven round and round. They tread on the grain separating it from the stalk and ear. The stalk left after threshing out the grain is carefully stored for feeding cattle. The process of separating the grain is called *dauni*. The grain is then collected in a heap on the threshing ground and winnowed which is called *osouni*.

Storage.—Store houses for grain are made by laying bamboo *Chatai* on blocks of wood or bricks and raising cylindrical bamboo enclosure above it covering the whole thing by thatch roofing. Such structures are called *berhis*. These are rather primitive but cheap and quite useful.

Wheat.—Wheat is the most important *rabi* crop. It is mostly cultivated in the areas lying north of the river Ganga and in Sultanganj, Nathnagar, Sabour, Colgong, and Pirpainty areas. It requires a clayey soil of medium elevation. The sowing starts from middle of October and it continues upto the end of December. The harvesting starts from the month of March and continues upto April. The area in acres under cultivation and outturn in tons yearwise are given below. The figures below are supplied by the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bhagalpur.

Year.	Area in acres.	Outturn in tons.
1949-50	37,640	8,546
1950-51	32,895	9,412
1951-52	25,638	14,952
1952-53	36,516	7,606
1953-54	37,924	8,066
1954-55	48,291	9,171
1955-56	42,495	12,566
1956-57	73,774	3,442
1957-58	11,813	5,078
1958-59	54,200	16,565
1959-60	40,653	7,422

Gram.—Gram is an important *rabi* crop. The area under cultivation of gram and its outturn yearwise are given below. The figures below are supplied by the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bhagalpur.

Year.	Area in acres.	Outturn in tons.
1949-50	125,192	14,023
1950-51	81,800	7,371
1951-52	69,661	3,941
1952-53	138,240	15,742
1953-54	101,404	16,874
1954-55	12,262	14,462
1955-56	101,832	21,659
1956-57	75,529	12,569
1957-58	45,744	7,360
1958-59	125,131	21,282
1959-60	100,330	11,725

It is mostly cultivated in the areas lying north of the river Ganga, and in Sultanganj, Nathnagar, Colgong and Pirpainty areas.

Maize.—Maize forms an important cereal and an item of food amongst the poor masses. The following yearwise figures supplied by the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bhagalpur will show the acreage under cultivation of maize and its outtrun:—

Year.	Area in acres.	Outturn in tons.
1949-50	195,475	53,638
1950-51	143,458	17,965
1951-52	139,723	20,965
1952-53	105,983	36,791
1953-54	105,493	15,394
1954-55	97,538	13,626
1955-56	94,579	16,825
1956-57	75,804	17,251
1957-58	146,367	28,551
1958-59	114,265	20,752
1959-60	129,779	70,929
1960-61	166,859	78,612

The most important maize growing areas are in North Bhagalpur particularly Naugachhia area. Naugachhia is the important trade centre of maize not only in Bhagalpur district but in the State of Bihar. A large quantity of maize is exported from here through boats and rails.

Other-food crops.—Among other food crops, barley, *khesari* and *arhar* are important. Both *khesari* and *arhar* are pulses and barley is generally consumed in form of bread and flour (*sattu*).

Non-food crops.—Sugarcane is the most important non-food crop. The following yearwise figures supplied by the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bhagalpur will show the acreage and outturn of sugarcane in the district:—

Year.	Area in acres.	Outturn in tons.
1949-50	14,405	1,486
1950-51	16,113	2,878
1951-52	11,070	1,880
1952-53	9,578	6,519
1953-54	10,302	1,514
1954-55	3,919	189
1955-56	10,946	979
1956-57	9,491	59,079
1957-58	6,607	29,377
1958-59	9,077	128,107
1959-60	13,005	149,623

It is a cash crop. It keeps the fields engaged for the whole year. Its cultivation is mostly restricted to Colgong, Pirpainty and Amarpur areas. Sugarcane is generally crushed locally here for producing *gur* and *khandsari*. Sugarcane has replaced Indigo which used to be grown extensively a few decades back.

Fruits and vegetables.—Besides foodcrops and non-food crops different kinds of fruits and vegetables are grown in this district. Fruits are grown in gardens where other kinds of crops are generally not grown. Vegetables are grown in the lands generally near the homestead of a cultivator. Vegetables are also grown in large quantities in the umlands near the towns because they get ready market. Sometimes other crops are also grown in the fields where vegetables are grown.

The important vegetables commonly grown in this district are potato, brinjal, lady's finger, tomato, cauli-flower, *palwal*, bottle-gourd, ridge gourd, cabbage, beans, spinach, beet and carrot, etc., Potato is the most important vegetable grown in the district.

Due to large cultivation of potatoes a cold storage plant was opened at Sabour in the private sector to store potatoes. The capacity of the cold storage is 15,000 mds.

Sweet potato is grown in both *kharif* and *rabi* seasons. During *kharif* this is planted in June or July and the vines from them are also utilised in the plantation during *rabi* season after harvest of *bhadai* crops in September and October. This is harvested in October or November and in March or April. Sweet potatoes are in great demand and being cheaper is largely consumed by the poorer classes.

Water-melon and musk-melon are generally grown extensively in the *diara* land, in summer. Bhagalpur melons are very large in size and sweet and command a big market outside Bhagalpur. A large quantity is exported to Calcutta, Patna, Asansol, etc. They are mostly grown in North Bhagalpur and in villages Baijani, Phulwaria, Puraini, Jagdishpur and in some parts of Colgong and Sabour. They are generally sown in February or March and harvested in May or June. The *diaras* of the district grow good water-melons besides various kinds of vegetables.

Fruits.—Important fruits grown in this district include mangoes, guavas, *lichis*, *kagazilemus* (citrus), bananas, papayas, black-berries, *phalsas*, custard apples, jack-fruits, etc.

There are different varieties of mangoes. The important varieties of mangoes are *Malda*, *Zardalu*, Alfanso, *Bombai*, *Fazli* and *Himsagar*. The main mango growing areas are Bhagalpbr, Sultanganj, Nathnagar, Sabour, Colgong, Pirpainty, Bihpur and Naugachhia. Possession of mango orchards was considered a mark of prestige at one time. Large number of mango groves have been recently cut down.

Guavas and *lichis* are generally grown in North Bhagalpur and in some parts of Sabour area. Papayas, black-berries and jack-fruits are grown in mango belts. Other fruits like custard apples, lemons, *baels* are scattered all over the district. The area under fruit trees in the district is given below :—

Name of the fruits.	Area in acres.
1. Mango	4,900
2. *Lichi*	2,000
3. Citrus	1,000
4. Guava	1,000
5. Banana	1,000
6 Orange	24
7. Pineapple	300
8. Custard apples	100

It will be seen that the area is very small. There are also some local fruits which are grown throughout the district. Some of them are, *Mahua*, *Khajur*, *Imli*, *Bair*, *Jamun*, *Tapari*, *Amla*, *Kamranga*, *Aura*, *Gab*, *Sapato*, *Khiruni*.

Arboriculture.—Different kinds of trees are found in the district. Some of them, namely, mango, *jamun*, *pipal*, *banian*, *kachanar*, *amaltash*, *ashok*, *sirish*, *sakhua*, *kathal*, *shisho*, Indian cork, etc., *Kachanar*, *shisho*, *sakhua*, etc., are generally found in North Bhagalpur and other trees are scattered all over the district. But it is unfortunate that in spite of the availability of good shady trees arboriculture by the sides of the main roads has been rather neglected. A well-planned long stretch of avenue for miles of shady and flowering trees is hardly to be seen anywhere in the district. The road from Bhagalpur to Bounsi has trees in certain stretches only. The same is the case with the road from Bhagalpur to Sultanganj. Some of the roads in Bhagalpur town have got old trees, viz., *amaltash* and *krishnachura*. They could be alternately planted by the sides of the roads. In Bhagalpur town there are some good old trees in Sandy's compound, Khanjarpur, Tilkamanjhi and Barari. In front of the Courts at Bhagalpur there are trees of *amaltash* and *krishnachura* which present a good sight of yellow and red flowers in summer. Trees of different species are also found in Champanagar area.

Agricultural Implements

The indigenous agricultural implements are widely used for agricultural operations. Francis Buchanan who had visited the district in 1810-1811 has left an account on the agricultural implements. The agricultural implements used during Francis Buchanan's time do not differ much from the present implements prevalent in the district. The reaping hooks *Hangsuya*, *Kachiya Jhapan*, the weeding iron (*Khurpi*), the hatchet (*Kulhari*), or the bill (*Dao*), the hoe (*Kodar*), wooden ploughs with iron share (*hal*), hoe (*Kodali*), etc., of Buchanan's time are still in use.

Certain improved implements have also been introduced. Some of the big cultivators have taken to the partial use of tractors in their fields. The number of tractors registered in this district since 1955 is 35. Mechanised cultivation is only possible in consolidated large plots of land belonging to individual owners There are not many such plots. It is also difficult to get the improved varieties of implements or parts of tractors.

There are several improved implements which are coming into use. Bihar Junior and Bihar Senior are some of the improved ploughs yielding better results. These are used if soil

inversion is necessary or undesirable plants are grown in the field or for ploughing every bit of land for deep ploughing.

Cultivators.—These implements are used for interculturing in the standing crops. There are several types of cultivators but Bihar cultivators are commonly used in this district.

Japanese paddy weeder.—This is becoming popular for paddy cultivation and is used for weeding and hoeing of the paddy field.

Chaff-cutter:—This implement is used for cutting the dry or wet fodder to feed the cattle. This mechanical device saves a lot of human labour and a large turnover is possible.

Maize sheller.—This implement is used for threshing the maize crops. They are available only with the big cultivators of maize growing tract, but it is becoming popular with the common cultivators also.

In addition to the above implements, some of the improved implements such as scraper, wet land puddler, hand hoe and hand duster are also in use.

The approximate price of the implements used in the district is as follows :—

1. Mould Board Plough ..	Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per plough.
2. *Deshi* Plough	Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per plough.
3. Bihar Cultivator ..	Rs. 30 to Rs. 40.
4. Bihar Ridger	Rs. 25 to Rs. 40.
5. Japanese Paddy Weeder ..	Rs. 15.
6. Chaff Cutter	Rs. 150 to Rs. 200.
7. Maize Sheller	Rs. 10.
8. *Phawara*	Rs. 5 to Rs. 7.
9. *Kudali*	Rs. 5.
10. *Khurpi*	Rs. 2 to Rs. 3.

The above implements are available at the district town with the dealers and in subdivision and blocks with the Subdivisional Agricultural Officer and Block Development Officers on subsidised rates.

Tractor and pumping sets are utilised for ploughing and irrigation.

The Agriculture Department has a tractor loaning scheme in which a tractor is given to cultivators for ploughing their fields on loan. Pumping sets are very useful to small cultivators also.

SEEDS

The quality of seeds also counts considerably in stepping up yield. In respect of some of the crops, it has been estimated that better varieties of seed can enhance the output even to the extent of 20 to 25 per cent.

The cultivators generally reserve a certain portion of their field produce for use as seed. But the seed often deteriorates in quality if no particular care is taken. Several improved varieties of seeds have been obtained either by selection on hybridisation by the Department of Agriculture, Bihar, at its research stations in the State or imported from other research stations in other parts of India. Several imported seeds have been given trial under local conditions and have been recommended to replace local seeds.

To check the deterioration in the quality, Seed Multiplication Scheme has been taken up for multiplying better type of seeds to introduce them to the farmers. The aim of the Government has been to open a Seed Multiplication Farm at each Block Headquarters. There are 18 Seed Multiplication Farms out of the 21 Blocks.

Previously, the recommended seeds of improved varieties were supplied to the cultivators from the Sabour Regional Farm and Banka Research Farm in small quantities and that too were not sufficient to meet the demand of each and every cultivator. So the seeds are now being distributed through the Seed Multiplication Farms to the cultivators.

Seed Multiplication Farms receive pedigree seeds from Sabour or Banka Farms. These seeds are multiplied at the Seed Multiplication Farms and the multiplied seeds are supplied to the big cultivators and they multiply the seeds in their fields under the supervision and guidance of the Village Level Workers who are trained personnel in the agricultural field.

The farmers and the Block Development Officers have an agreement that the seeds produced will be exchanged with the general cultivators for multiplication purpose. They get Re. 1 as premium for each maund of seeds exchanged or sold with general cultivators.

MANURES

Cow-dung, the droppings of sheep and goats and farm refuse are common manures. Cow-dung is very popular and it is unfortunate that cow-dung should be used as fuel. The cultivators are no longer allergic to use chemical and organic fertilizers. They are also becoming compost-minded.

In the rural areas the cultivators prepare their own compost. Cow-dung, farm refuse, etc., are collected in a pit and are allowed to decompose to form compost. The pits are opened after one year and the farm-yard manure thus prepared is taken to the field.

The outskirts of the urban areas are now being used by municipal bodies and notified area committees to prepare town compost out of the sweepings and nightsoil. The apathy of the cultivators to use this type of manure is now being liquidated. Oil-cakes are used widely in the district.

The cultivators of this district are getting used to the chemical manures and in this district there are six Co-operative Agricole Depots and many Co-operatives Societies and Multi purpose Co-operative Societies which are selling fertilizers to the cultivators. The figures of sale of manures from Bhagalpur Agricole Depot from 1954-55 to 1960-61 is given below.

Sale position of chemical fertilizer from 1954-55 to 1960-61 (in tons) of Bhagalpur Co-operative Credit Agricole Depot is given below :—

Year.	Ammonium Sulphate.	Urea.	Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate.	Calcium Ammonium Nitrate.	Single Super-phosphate.	Bone-meal.	Fertilizer mixture.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1954-55 ..	210	..	..	..	60	4	..
1955-56 ..	175	..	..	..	55	..	..
1956-57 ..	231	..	..	..	41	3	..
1957-58 ..	234	1	..	..	63	2	..
1958-59 ..	444	6	..	..	70	2	..
1959-60 ..	448	20	7	5	88	..	10
1960-61 ..	546	15	11	6	73	..	14

The above figures show that there has been a marked increase in the sale of chemical manures.

The sale position of chemical fertilizers of all Agricole Depots of the district is given below for 1960-61 (in tons) except Bhagalpur Agricole Depot which has been mentioned above.

Name of Depot.	Ammonium Sulphate.	Urea.	Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate.	Calcium Ammonium Nitrate.	Single Super-phosphate.	Bone-meal.	Fertilizer mixture.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Colgong ..	218	.5	2	1	20	..	3
2. Pirpainty	175	8	..	..	14	..	2
3. Naugachhia	12	..	..	..	12	..	..
4. Banka ..	390	14	5	5	41	6	..
5. Rajoun ..	246	13	..	1	38	26	3

Ammonium Sulphate is used in all the crops but for leguminous crops the quantity used is practically nil. The following chart will show the application of ammonium sulphate in different crops :—

Crops.		Quantity per acre. Md. sr. ch.	Time of application.
Paddy	..	1 22 8	½ dose at the time of padding and ½ dose after one month.
Maize ..	..	1 22 8	½ dose at sowing and ½ dose after one mouth.
Wheat	..	1 10 0	Full dose at the time of sowing.
Potato	..	4 27 8	½ dose at the time of sowing and ½ dose in subsequent two earthings.
Sugarcane	..	4 27 8	½ dose at planting and ½ dose at earthing time.
Barley	..	1 10 0	Full dose at the time of sowing.
Gram and other leguminous crops.		0 12 8	Full dose at the time of sowing.

For all the crops chemical fertilizers are suitable .

On analysis of the soils of the different parts of the district it has been found that they are deficient in nitrogen and phosphate contents. Ammonium Sulphate is a good nitrogen fertilizer.

Besides these, green manuring is also an important process to increase the fertility of the soil Green manuring is the practice of applying large quantities of green materials such as the leaves and twigs of various plants, trees and shrubs or crops which are specially cultivated for the purpose. This process benefits the soil with addition of nitrogen. It also results in addition of organic matter. The important green manures used in the district are

leguminous crops, such as, *Sanai*, *Dhaincha*, *Moong* and *Kalai*. In parts of hilly tracts, such as, Katoria, Banka, Amarpur and Bounsi police stations, plants, twigs and leaves also are used as green manure. To popularise green manure, the State Government sanctioned 20 per cent reduction on selling price of *Dhaincha* and *Sanai* seeds. The selling rate of *Sanai* seeds is Rs. 20 per maund and of *Dhaincha* seeds is Rs. 15 per maund.

Another method of increasing the fertility of the land is by leaving the land fallow. The field when fallow may be left quite undisturbed or left in a ploughed condition.

The formation of nitrates is less in the soil of a field with a crop growing on it than on an uncropped land. Fallow land helps in securing the formation of nitrates.

ROTATION OF CROPS

The cultivators are fully conscious of the beneficial effects of rotation of crops. Crops are generally sown in rotation but there are certain tracts specially in *diara* areas where rotation cannot be strictly followed. Crop rotations maintain and improve the fertility of the soil, increase the quality and the yield of the crop, and will also help in the conservation of soil. Crop rotation also controls the incidence of disease and weeds. The following rotation of crops is usually followed :—

Kharif.	Rabi.
(1) Early Paddy	Wheat or Barley.
(2) Green manure	Wheat.
(3) Maize	Barley or wheat.
(4) Maize and *Arhar*	*Arhar*.
(5) Maize	Potato.
(6) Paddy	Broadcast gram or *Khesari*.
(7) Paddy	Gram or wheat.
(8) Maize and green manure ..	Gram.
(9) Maize	Sugarcane.

Cultivators generally sow mixed crops as the seeds of the cultivators are diversified and most of them hold small holdings. The crops usually grown together are—(1) Maize, *arhar* and turmeric; (*ii*) Maize, *urid* and *moong*; (*iii*) Wheat and gram; (*iv*) Barley and gram and (*v*) Wheat and mustard.

The cultivators do not usually allow a margin of rest to the land in between two crops. A small gap between *rabi* and *Kharif* crops should be given.

AGRICULTURAL DISEASES AND PESTS

The common pests of paddy are the Rice *Gundi Bug* and Rice case worm. The first generally attacks the early paddy at the flowering time and sucks the juice at the fruiting stage. The latter is common to both the *Bhadai* and *Aghani* paddy and damages the growing plant at all the stages of its growth. Both of them are very harmful and if not checked reduce the yield by about 50 per cent.

Borers are also commonly found doing damage to the maize and sugarcane crops. They bore holes into the stems of plants and cause considerable stunting of growth and driage. Spraying with insecticides such as strong crude emulsion oil at the early stages of attack is useful.

Crickets and hoppers are common in *rabi*. They damage the crops by cutting the plants at their bases and eating away their leaves. Clean cultivation and irrigation are good preventives. Irrigating the fields with crude emulsion oil or flooding them with water mixed with kerosene oil is extremely beneficial.

Mango hoppers are serious pest in the mango orchards of the district The juice of the young shoot and flower buds or the entire inflorescene is sucked up. A characteristic fungus grows and the whole crop is lost. Spraying with resin soap, kerosene or crude oil emulsion and weak mixture of sulphate and lime help in combating these hoppers.

Amongst the plant diseases, *Dakhinaha* disease of paddy is a serious problem with the cultivators. The tops of the leaves start drying and the driage continues to move downward till the plant itself dries out. The disease appears in slight different forms in the district from place to place and from year to year. The use of *khari* salt or ammonium sulphate is useful.

The traditional method to prevent pests and diseases is the simple use of liquid cow-dung and ash.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The district organisation of Agriculture Department has the District Agricultural Officer at the head of the Section. The District Agricultural Officer works under the Deputy Director of Agriculture who has also his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Director

of Agriculture is the administrative head of the Agriculture Department at the State level, whose headquarters is at Patna.

Under the District Agricultural Officer, there are Subdivisional Agricultural Officers at each Subdivision. The District Agricultural Officer is assisted by the Subdivisional Agricultural Officers and by a team of subject matter Specialists in agronomy, botany, chemistry, plant protection, well-boring, fishery, etc. Their job is to co-ordinate the result of research from the laboratories to the farmers in the field. Broadly, the District Agriculture Officer has to co-ordinate three fold functions—research, education, agricultural extension and development.

Agricultural research

The head of the research work is the Regional Director whose headquarters is at Sabour. Under the control of the Regional Director, all researches are carried on. There is a Director of Agricultural Research at Patna who is in overall charge of research for the State.

With a view to help the Regional Director in reviewing the progress of research and co-ordinating the programme for the region, a council consisting of the research specialists has been set up. The council meets frequently in different research sections and discusses the research work in progress.

The important research centres are of Agronomy, Botany, Agriculture, Chemistry and Soil Science, Horticulture and Plant Pathology.

Agronomy

This section conducts trials on improved varieties regarding their suitability to different tracts. The programme also includes studies on the possibility of double cropping on paddy, control of weeds, green manuring of paddy and wheat, inter-culturing, etc.

The following agronomical practices have been done in the Sabour Agriculture College Farm :—

(1) (a) *Kalai* as a fodder crop grown mixed with maize without allowing it to interfere with the inter-culturing and earthing up of maize crop.

(b) *Kalai* as a green manure crop has been found to benefit the succeeding wheat crop without loss of the main *Kharif* crops (maize).

(2) Taking two additional crops one of *Kalai* and the other of early mustard between green manuring and sugarcane planting.

(3) Hill method of maize planting (especially in the matter of weed eradication).

Kalai is popular in villages also. Hill method is not practised and is not popular even in the farm.

Botany

This section is engaged in research and evolves various varieties of improved crops and distributes them to cultivators through block agencies.

Agricultural Chemistry and Science

There has been an expansion of the scope of the agricultural chemistry and soil science section. Prior to this expansion the research work was limited to the studies of the effects of fertilizers on crop and analysis of different soils. The work is now done on the following lines:—

(*a*) *Soil Survey.*—Soil maps and recommendation for land use are made on the results of carried out soil surveys.

(*b*) *Soil microbiological studies.*—It has been established by research that yields of *Kalai*, *Moong* and *Soyabean* are increased by bacterial inoculation of their seeds. It has also been established here that Algae when incorporated in paddy fields increase the soil fertility.

(*c*) *Trace elements studies.*—Research has shown that the application of manganese for gram cultivation at Sabour has increased the crop yield.

(*d*) *Increase production by fertilizer application.*—It has been established by researches that the application of fertilizer increases the productive capacity of the soil. Manurial schedule for different crops has been worked out. The problem is to pass it on to the cultivators and to make it popular. It has been proved that efficacy of green manure crops can be increased by applying phosphate while sowing or burying them.

Entomology

An expansion has been made in the Entomology Section. Prior to this expansion limited research work on the bionomics and ecology of important pests of economic crops in Bihar was done.

The work is in progress on the following lines:—

(a) Evaluation of synthetic and systematic insecticides for control of pests.

(b) Possibilities of biological control of crop pests.

(c) Biology and life history of crop pests.

Hortriculture

There is a Horticulture Section under the Agriculture Department. The main activity of the section is conducting researches on horticultural crops in the State of Bihar which is located at Sabour in the district. This section was established in. 1934. The work of this section was formerly included in the Botanical Section and was limited to the propagation by grafts of well known fruit varieties, *e.g.*, *Langra*, *Bombai*, *Fazli*, *Zardalu* and *Gulabkhas* varieties of mango. New mango varieties, such as, *Abehayat*, summer *Bahesht*, *Surkh Burma* and *Sundar Prasad* are being introduced.

Research is going on to work out prevention of preharvest drop in mango and *Lichi*, deficiency symptoms in mango, *Lichi*, guava and papaya, and to increase sweetness in orange fruits by application of chemical fertilizers.

The section at Sabour is under the control of the State Horticulturist who controls and guides research at Sabour and at the different sub-stations distributed throughout the State. From the horticultural garden a very large number of graft fruit plants are sold annually to the public.

Within this section there is one fruit and vegetable sub-section at Sabour. Researches are being carried out on (*i*) Fungal disease, (*ii*) Physiological disease and (*iii*) Virus disease and to find out suitable antidotes.

Some of the practical results achieved in the Horticultural Section may be indicated. The causes and remedy of the irregular bearing in mango have been found out. Mango has been induced to flower every year by cultural operations only. This is possible if mango trees are manured every year with the scheduled doses of different nutrients and in the 'On' year, the dose of nitrogen is doubled to induce vegetation just after harvest. These late shoots mature and flower during the next spring. Good strains of mango have been evolved by crossing suitable types. It has been established that "Black tip" disease of mango is caused by coal fumes emitted from brick kilns.

It has also been found possible to change the flowering season in Nagpur oranges from spring to rains thus yielding fruits in April-May in place of November-December.

The researches have also established some of the effective control measures for some pests and diseases like mango hopper, litchi mite, leaf cancer in citrus, etc. Processes for improving fruit preserve have also been found.

The Horticultural Section has also been able to grow successfully a number of spices and medicine plants like Anise, Cardamom, Rawolfia serpentina, etc.

Agriculture College

The Agricultural College at Sabour was started in 1910. The course of studies which originally extended over three years for the Diploma of Licentiate in Agriculture, was subsequently reduced to 2 years' certificate course. It imparted training in Agriculture including Livestock and Rural Economy, Physics, Chemistry Botany, Entomology, Vêterinary Science, Agricultural Engineering and Land Records. This course is now abolished and has been substituted by a degree course in the Agriculture College.

The College is located at Sabour about 5 miles east of Bhagalpur. It is affiliated to Bhagalpur University. In the present set up the College imparts education up to B. Sc. (Agriculture) and M.Sc. (Agriculture). The subjects taught are Agronomy, Agricultural Botany, Agricultural Chemistry, Horticulture, Entomology, Plant Pathology (Mycology and Bacteriology and Plant Pathology), Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Economics and Rural Extension, Animal Husbandry, Farm Management, Statistics and Farm Accounts.

The minimum qualification for admission in B. Sc. Course (Agriculture) is a pass in I.Sc. with Physics, Chemistry and Biology or Mathematics or an equivalent qualification. From 1961, students who have passed Higher Secondary Examination or Pre-University Examination with Science or Agriculture group are also admitted to the Course.

The minimum qualification for admission in M.Sc. Course (Agriculture) is a degree in B Sc. (Agriculture). The following five subjects are taught in the M. Sc. (Agriculture) class: (1) Agronomy, (2) Horticulure, (3) Entomology, (4) Plant Pathology and (5) Agricultural Extension.

Model farms.—There is one Central Farm at Sabour, one Research Farm at Banka and 18 Seed Multiplication Farms in different *Anchals* of the district.

The Central Farm with an area of 600 acres at Sabour is used for experiments and demonstrations by the Agricultural College, Sabour. The farm grows almost all the important crops including fodder. Besides providing facilities for training to the students in the field of practical agriculture, it multiplies seeds of improved and recommended varieties.

A Research Unit has recently been added to Sabour Agricultural College and a number of schemes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have been taken up. The sections under Botany, Chemistry, Horticulture, Entomology and Soil Survey are all busy in investigation work. The Botany section now consists of sub-sections for oil-seeds, maize and millet, rice, pulses, each incharge of a Specialist Officer. There is also a scheme of Indian Central Cotton Committee for introduction of long staple cotton in Bihar. Under the Chemistry section there is a Soil Survey Officer, a Soil Microbiologist and a Geologist and maps for soil survey and mineral occurrences are being compiled after due investigation. Under the Horticultural section a Zonal Fruit Research Station of Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been started under a Zonal Horticulturist with jurisdiction in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

New varieties of cotton, linseed, safflower (*Kusum*), ground nut, sweet potato have been introduced. New agronomical practices and improved strains of barley, wheat and rice have been evolved. The Botanical Garden contains a representative plant of different families, quite a few of which are also medicinal plants. The Botanical Garden is mainly used for teaching botany to the students. There is also a Dairy as a teaching unit. The Dairy has herd of Tharparkar cow and bull and Murrah buffalo. Preparation of butter, cheese and cream and artificial insemination techniques are taught to the students. There is a Poultry Unit as well with White Leg Horns and Rodes Island Red, Minorcas, etc. There is a Fruit Preservation Unit for teaching the preparation of jam, jelly and preservation of fruits.

Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

As this district has to depend mainly on animals for its agriculture, a cultivator of even moderate means has to maintain at least one bullock. Cultivators in better circumstances maintain one or more pairs of bullocks, a few buffaloes and sometimes a few cows also. The poorer section keeps goats, sheep and poultry. The number of cattle generally adds to the social status of the farmer. The cattle wealth of Bhagalpur district is good because of the number and the quality of the animals.

Regarding cattle, Captain Sherwill in his "Geographical and Statistical Report of the District of Bhagalpur (1869)" mentions as follows : "The principal draught cattle in the District are buffaloes, and the common grey bullock; horses, mules and asses are almost unknown; cows, pigs, poultry and pigeons are common". His remarks do not hold good these days for he-buffalloes have ceased to be draught animals and have been replaced by bullocks; horses and asses are common while pigs are kept only by certain sections of *Harijans*, e.g., Musahars, Dosadhs, Doms, etc.

The following table indicates the livestock population* from 1920 onwards :—

Year.	Cattle.	Buffaloes.	Sheep.	Goats.	Pigs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1920	1,142,395	204,638	25,351	125,383	N.A.
1925	1,143,267	213,071	25,535	372,363	N.A.
1930	1,166.538	242,201	27,204	282,329	N.A.
1940	1,080,606	221,506	25,709	277,435	16,189
1945	916,175	209,644	17,124	179,344	11,749
1951*	1,331,600	245,107	30,395	344,090	18,361
1956	5,77,722	1,25,226	19.688	2,83,852	10,885
1961	6,19,790	1.16,816	23,905	3,72,627	N.A.

The figures of 1940 and 1945, showing a decrease under each of the heads, are easily explained by the heavy drain of livestock due to the exigencies of the Second World War. But a marked increase is noticed in the animal wealth of the district when the figures of 1951 are compared with that of the 1945.

The decrease in the number of all the heads quoted above in 1956 and 1961 as compared with the 1951 is due to the fact that the two subdivisions of the old district of Bhagalpur were transferred to the newly created sub-district of Saharsa which was later raised to the status of full-fledged district in the year 1954.

The figures of 1961 as compared with 1956 show an increase in all the heads excepting buffaloes. This shows that there is a great tendency towards increase in the cattle wealth of the district. It is unfortunate that the goat population is increasing. The figure of goat population in 1961 as compared with 1956 shows that there is an increase of about one lac in five years. Goats are the worst enemies of crops. The population of pigs in 1951 has increased by 7,000 as compared with 1945. The figures of pig in 1961 are not available. The State Government have decided to encourage people for keeping more pigs during the Third Five Year Plan. The population of other animals has increased in 1961 as compared with 1956 which indicates that the people are getting more and more interested in animals.

*Figures upto 1951 cover both Bhagalpur and Saharsa districts (District Census Handbook, 1956). Later figures are for Bhagalpur district excluding Saharsa.

A detailed classification of bulls for Bhagalpur only according to 1951 census is given below:—

Bulls over three years

		Cattle.				Buffaloes.			
		Breeding bulls.	Working bulls.	Other bulls.	Total.	Breeding bulls.	Working bulls.	Other bulls.	Total.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rural	..	913	202,813	13,666	217,392	1,135	16,848	3,453	21,436
Urban	..	35	1,493	119	1,647	21	8	4	33
Total	..	948	204,306	13,785	219,039	1,156	16,856	3,457	21,469

The above figures disclose that the number of breeding bulls, both in cattle and buffaloes are less than that of working bulls. It also discloses that the livestock wealth is more found in the rural area than in urban area.

A detailed description of cows over three years according to 1951 census is given below (for Bhagalpur only).

Cattle

		In-milk.	Dry.	Not calved.	For work.	Others.	Total.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
Rural	..	71,177	77,231	27,850	16,732	5,941	198,931
Urban	..	2,100	1,531	337	464	127	4,559
Total	..	73,277	78,762	28,187	17,196	6.068	203,490

Buffaloes

		In-milk.	Dry.	Not calved.	For work.	Others.	Total.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
Rural	..	14,569	17,477	7,493	5,467	2,665	47,671
Urban	..	143	192	23	90	59	507
Total	..	14,712	17,669	7,516	5,557	2,724	48,178

The population of dry cattle and buffaloes is more than the population of cattle and buffaloes in-milk.

Fodder crops

As the straw of cereals is generally used as food for cattle, people do not feel the necessity of growing crops to be used as fodder only. There is no reliable record to assess the area under fodder crops, but, for improving the quality of animal wealth, the Government is keen to increase and develop fodder products. Altogether 1,136 demonstration plots covering 136 acres of land were laid in both the seasons *i.e.*, in *Kharif* and *rabi* during 1958-59. Three hundred ninety-six maunds of improved fodder cuttings of Napier and Para and 19¼ mds. of Goar, Darseem and Lucerene seeds were distributed among the people of the district during 1958-59. During 1959-60, 1,168 demonstration plots covering 181 acres of land were laid in both the seasons. Eight hundred and sixty maunds of improved fodder cuttings of Napier and Para and 25 maunds of seeds were distributed among the people of the district during 1959-60. This shows that there is a marked increase in the demonstration plots as well as in area covered by the fodder crops and in seed distribution among the people.

Dairy farming

Mostly *gowalas*, who are professional cowherds, keep herds of cows and buffaloes and trade in cow and buffaloe milk. There are five privately managed *goshalas* in the district. At these *goshalas* cows and buffaloes are maintained but the standard of maintenance is poor. *Gosadans* are meant for housing decrepit and semi-useless cattle. There is no *gosadan* in the district. The two important *goshalas* are 'Shri Goshala' at Bhagalpur and 'Shri Gopal Goshala' at Naugachhia. Both are maintained by public subscriptions and donations.

In order to organise the sale of pure milk and improve the quantity of milk the Government have encouraged the existing *goshalas* on modern lines. The Government have distributed Hariana bulls and cows to the *goshalas* at Naugachhia and Bhagalpur.

Shri Goshala of Bhagalpur has its three branches at villages Tikuri, Mohanpur and Shahkund. Mohanpur and Shahkund *goshalas* have no cows fit for giving milk. The total quantity of milk produced by 'Shri Goshala' and its branch at Tikuri comes to about 8 mds. daily (1961). The milk is supplied at Bhagalpur. Besides these, there is a 'Co-operative Milk Union' at Bhagalpur which manages to supply milk to the inhabitants of the area. It does not keep cattle but purchases milk from the milkmen

residing in different parts of the area and the purity of milk is tested and then the milk is supplied to the people.

But these agencies cannot be said to fulfil the total demand of the area. The *goshalas* and the milkmen maintain mostly average cows and the yield of an average cow is about 3 pounds per day that is why they cannot meet the full demand. The average yield of a Hariana cow is about 10 pounds per day. If Hariana cows will be popularised in the *goshalas* and amongst the milkmen, they may get sufficient quantity of milk and thereby they can easily meet the demand of milk.

The price of milk per seer is 63 nP. in Bhagalpur. The quantity of milk supplied by the above agencies varies from season to season.

Bhagalpur is famous for its milk-products like *ghee*, curd, sweets, etc. The northern portion of Bhagalpur is noted for exporting *ghee* and butter.

Sheep breeding

The sheep population of the district according to 1956 Livestock Census was 19,688 and, according to 1961 Livestock Census, is 23,905. There has been a marked increase in the population of sheep which is apparent from the figures. The areas where sheep population is concentrated in the district are Belhar, Katoria, Banka, Baounsi, Sabour and Colgong Police-stations.

There is no specified pasture ground in the district. Only idle and fallow lands are used as pasture grounds for the sheep population. Hilly tracts also provide some grazing for the Livestock.

The shepherds of the district rear wool out of sheep and supply it to the Central Jail, Bhagalpur. The district has a ready-made market for blankets as a large number of them are manufactured at the Central Jail, Bhagalpur, alone. Besides, shepherds also prepare blankets from wool. It is a very good cottage industry for the shepherds. Blankets are prepared at every place where the population of sheep is thick. The Government is also intending to help the shepherds by providing them training in the field of blanket weaving.

Poultry farming

Poultry is kept by a good number of people, but there is practically very little of proper housing and feeding except in a very few cases where improved types of birds are maintained

Normally the birds are let loose to feed themselves and they are not given healthy balanced diet. Mostly Muslims and the poorer sections of the Hindu keep poultry as a side-income.

There are two Government poultry farms in the district (1) Poultry Extension, Bounsi and (2) Regional Poultry Farm Barari (Bhagalpur) and there are three hatching poultry centres, namely, Sabour, Katoria and Banka run by Government. There is one private poultry farm also in the district at Mandar named Mandar Poultry Home.

Poultry farming has come to take the form of an important industry. The Government extends loans to the persons working in this field. The following figures will show the extent of development in this field :—

	Fowls.	Ducks.
1945	1,23,992	6,510
1951	1,70,246	8,067
1956	1,57,757	2,985

From the figures it transpire that there has been some development in the field of poultry. The decline in the figures of 1956 is only due to the fact that the two subdivisions of old district of Bhagalpur were transferred to the newly created sub-district of Saharsa, which was later raised to the status of a full-fledged district in the year 1954. For the development of poultry, hatching centres at Sabour, Katoria and Banka have been opened.*

The aims of the hatching centres is to improve the breed of the birds. Better type birds are hatched and distributed for breeding purposes. The work done so far from these centres is extremely poor in consideration of the consuming public. During the years 1957-58 to 1959-60, 1,624 birds have been distributed for breeding purposes. The Community Development Blocks are expected to encourage poultry rearing but not much appears to have been achieved so far.

It is unfortunate that poultry farming at small scale on improved lines has not been adopted by the common middle class family who could spare about 400 square feet of ground space which is sufficient for a few birds. It may be noted here that the late Mr. S. K. Roy, a retired Superintending Engineer had started a modest poultry farm at Bounsi in his own house and was quite successful in producing very good birds long before the State Government had taken any steps to encourage poultry. He is an example that could usefully be followed by the middle class people for improving their diet and also to supplement the income.

Generally it may be said that the price of meat in Bhagalpur ranges from Rs. 3 to 4 (1961) which is 50 per cent more than the ruling price in Patna. The price of milk product has also gone up very considerably.

* Fowls and ducks in 1951 for Bhagalpur excluding Saharsa were 114,869 and 5,842 respectively.

Fisheries

The large number of rivers, streams, low lying fields which accumulate water in the rainy season, ponds and marshes indicate a rich fish potentiality for this district. Certain portions of the bed of Ganga near Bhagalpur are particularly noted for a large variety of spawn. A large number of tanks are kept reserved for rearing fish. There are four such tanks in Bhagalpur town. The recent rehabilitation of displaced families from East Pakistan belonging to fishermen class near about Rajmahal has given a great incentive to fish culture. These displaced Bengali fishermen are experts in catching fish with their large net (*mahajal*) from which fish could hardly escape. The presence of ice factory and a large fish consuming public indicate an assured consumption of large quantities of fish within the district. Only two decades back a variety of fish both large and small used to be available in the markets of the district and the surplus used to go out of the district by rail or boat. Somehow the position has been reversed now and due to higher price of fish in Asansol, Chittaranjan, Burdwan and Calcutta the bulk of the best fish caught daily is sent out while the balance is sold in Bhagalpur and in other markets at a price ranging near about Rs. 3 per seer. The State Government has rightly taken up a scheme for development of fisheries. One Inspector of fisheries has been appointed under the administrative control of the District Agricultural Officer. The Fishery Inspector is expected to look after the development and exploitation of suitable water reservoirs in the district. He is also required to look after the welfare of the fishermen and to do a necessary amount of propaganda and demonstrations. The achievement so far has been imperceptible and the condition of the fisheries and the fishermen continue to be almost the same as it was two or three decades back. No active fishermen co-operatives have been functioning and the middlemen continue to exploit the poor fishermen. There has been no serious attempt to tap the paddy fields which can grow a large quantity of particular species of fish. No attempt has been made to introduce new varieties of fish and on the other hand many of the species are declining.

The main occupation of the men belonging to the castes Mallahs, Keuts, Banpars or Tiors is to catch fish and do other allied work for marketing fish. There are regular fishing villages in this district mostly located by the river side. Fishermen usually live in a distinct *tola* or *tolas* of the village or town. This is the case at Colgong and Naugachhia. According to the District Census Handbook, 1956, the total number of persons who were found to be economically active in fishery was only 598 with 476 males and 122 females. Bhagalpur district is noted for its fish wealth although the fishermen occupy a distinctly lower position in fish trade and their role is to catch fish only. The

bulk of their catch is sold to a few traders who belong to other castes, such as, Gwalas, Kurmis and Muslims. These are big traders who directly import and export fish. Quite a large quantity of fish is received in Bhagalpur market every day from the other side of the Ganga mostly from Khagaria and Katihar Subdivisions. Occasionally particular kinds of fish like lobsters, *hilsa*, *bhetki*, etc., packed in ice are imported from Calcutta. Fresh water fish like *Rohu* and *Katla* are sent out from Bhagalpur to Calcutta.

In Bhagalpur town fish are brought from different centres and they are sent to the wholesale fish market at Sujaganj From this market the fishes are sent to retailers on auction basis.

The chief fish markets and trade centres in the district are at Bhagalpur, Colgong, Naugachhia, Pirpainti, Amarpur and Sultanganj. The following are some of the species of fish that are commonly available:—*Rohu* (*Labeo rohita*), *Katla* (*Catla buchani*), *Boari* (*Wallago attu*), *Tengara* (*Macrones tengra*), *Hilsa* (*Clupea ilisha*), *Bachwa* (*Eutroipichthys vacha*), *Jhinga*, Carp, Featherbacks, Livefish and Prawn, etc. A kind of very tasty mullets known locally as *Arwari* is a particular variety available in Bhagalpur. This type of fish usually swims against the current and at the surface of the water in the rivers. A variety of small fish called *pothia* is also common here.

In this district two types of crafts, *viz.*, (1) dug-out canoes and (2) plank built boats are used for catching fish. Dug-out canoes which ply in the rivers are stable and cheap. Plank built boats of various types are used in the strong current of large rivers like Ganga and Kosi. The small canoes are commonly used for catching *hilsa*, prawn, etc.

Implements used for catching fish are many. They can be classified as under:—

1. Drag nets of small and big size.
2. Drift and gilling nets.
3. Cast nets.
4. Scoop nets.
5. Pouch nets.
6. Long lines.
7. Fish spears.

The fishes are caught at different catching centres such as, Naugachhia, Colgong, Bounsi, Pirpainti and Sultanganj. As regards fish for sale it may be mentioned that there are four seasons in a year, i. e., from January to March, April to June, July to August and September to December. The average daily consumption

of fish in Bhagalpur town only according to season is given below:—

January to March—	about 50 mds.
April to June—	„ 30 mds.
July to August—	„ 45 mds.
September to December—	„ 60 mds.

On enquiry it was found that in Naugachhia and Colgong towns about 20,000 mds. of fish are exported yearly to other parts of the State and to Calcutta and Siliguri. But there is still scope for development. With the implementation of several new irrigation development schemes, which have a direct or indirect bearing on fisheries, pisciculture is bound to gain more importance in this region. The Ice Factories in Bhagalpur sell daily about 2,000 mds. of ice for the fish trade.

These days there is some apathy among the younger generation of *Mallahs* to take to fish trade. On getting some education they like other educated youngmen, hanker after soft collared jobs and detest the profession of catching fish. This might lead to some decline in fish trade. The other obstacle that stands in the way of the development of fishing industry is the lack of capital amongst the fishermen.

Measures to improve quality of breeds of animals.—Efforts are being made by the Government to improve the quality of breeds. Bulls of improved varieties are purchased and distributed in the different parts of the district. During 1960-61, 62 approved bulls were distributed in the district for improving the breed of cattle.

Artificial Insemination Centres in the district, are located at Banka, Bihpur, Sultanganj, Sonhaula, Pirpainty, Naugachhia and Bhagalpur. In 1960-61, 1,122 animals were artificially inseminated at Banka, 1,798 at Bihpur, 1,503 at Sultanganj, 957 at Sonhaula, 515 at Pirpainty, 272 at Naugachhia and 1,154 at Bhagalpur. In consideration of the cattle population the number is small.

These Artificial Insemination Centres have got different sub-centres and the number of animals referred to above indicates the total number of animals inseminated in the centre including its sub-centres.

There is neither a Research Centre nor a Model Farm nor any other centre for segregation of old animals in the district.

A cattle fair is an important step towards creating a lively interest amongst the people in animals. But unfortunately there is no cattle fair in the district. Only cattle markets are held in different places of the district. The important cattle markets in the district are Shambhuganj (Jagdishpur *Anchal*), Sonhaula (Sonhaula P.-S.), Sahibganj (Belhar P.-S.), Bharko (Amarpur P.-S.) and Puraini (Jagdishpur *Anchal*).

One cattle show is organised every year in every block. During 1960-61, cattle shows were organised in all the blocks except Gopalpur Block. A district cattle show is also organised every year in the district.

ANIMAL DISEASES AND VETERINARY HOSPITALS

The diseases, from which animals generally suffer from in the district, are rinderpest, haemorrhagic septicaemia, anthrax, black-quarter, foot and mouth diseases. The Animal Husbandry Department deals both with the treatment and prevention of cattle diseases. All out-breaks are attended to promptly with Sera and Vaccine, as the case needs. The affected animals are medically treated wherever possible. Mass inoculation is done against those diseases for which specific vaccines are available.

The comparative figures of vaccination against these diseases in 1958 and 1959 are given below:—

	Rinderpest.	Haemorrhagic Septicaemia.	Anthrax.	Black quarter.
1	2	3	4	5
1958	1,09,597	22,958	1,101	16,517
1959	98,120	7,918	2,021	6,729

In the district of Bhagalpur, there is one Veterinary Hospital at Bhagalpur and class I dispensaries are at the following places:—

(1) Banka, (2) Katoria, (3) Dumraon, (4) Rajoun, (5) Bounsi, (6) Shahkund, (7) Bihpur, (8) Naugachhia, (9) Gopalpur, (10) Colgong, (11) Pirpainty, (12) Belhar, (13) Sabour, (14) Dhuraiya, (15) Jagdishpur, (16) Sultanganj, (17) Nathnagar, (18) Sonhaula, (19) Shambhuganj, (20) Barahat and (21) Chandan.

Statement of cases treated at the Veterinary Hospital, Bhagalpur is given below:—

Year.	Cases treated.	Number of deaths.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4
1956-57	3,110	10	Deaths were due to the outbreak of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia.
1957-58	2,898	57	
1958-59	3,207	8	
1959-60	3,506	12	

During the markets in the district where the animals are sold in large number, efforts are made to vaccinate the cattle as a measure to check the spread of diseases among them.

FORESTRY

Regarding forests, J. Byrne, I. C. S. has in the last "Bhagalpur District Gazetteer" published in 1911 mentioned as follows:—

> "There is no tract of woodland in Bhgalpur District which deserves the name of a forest, but there is much low jungle interspersed with trees of large size in the south of *parganas* Bhagalpur and Danra Sakhwara, and in *parganas* Nisankpur Kurha and Harawat, north of the Ganges. Along the southern hills there are two distinct tracts, one stretching from near the Umarpur Police Station to the Belhar outpost of Katuriya, including *tappa* Chandan. The second begins near Chandan, and runs by Jaipur along the whole Santhal Parganas boundary to Lakshmipur. The former covers an area of above forty square miles and the latter about thirty."

In this connection it will be interesting to note that the first department for forestry in Bihar was located at Bhagalpur. At that time the districts of Bhagalpur, Purnea and Santhal Parganas had plenty of forests. But at the moment, the forests of Bhagalpur district are not very important. All the forests of the district had so far been privately owned. But with the implementation of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, the State Government have become the proprietor of these forests.

The forests of the district have been divided into two ranges, viz., Banka and Katoriya. Each of the ranges is placed under a range officer. They are under the administrative control of Divisional Forest Officer, Deoghar with his headquarters at Deoghar.

Banka range consists of 133.39 square miles demarcated area. There are four beats, namely, Banka, Bhitta, Lakshmipur and Belhar and 25 sub-beats under this range. No afforestation work is being done in this range.

Katoriya range consists of 81.33 square miles demarcated area. There are three beats, namely, Katoriya, Suia and Chandar and 20 sub-beats under this range. Afforestation work is going on in this range.

State Assistance to Agriculturists

The Agriculturists Loans Act, 1884 and the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883 enable Government to give loans for relief of distress, purchase of seed or cattle or any other purpose connected with agricultural objects.

Under the Land Improvement Loans Act, the Collector is competent to sanction loans up to Rs. 2,000. Loans exceeding Rs. 2,000 but up to Rs. 5,000 require the sanction of Government. In respect of the Agriculturists' Loans Act, the Subdivisional Officer can grant loans up to Rs. 250 and loans above it but up to Rs. 700 are granted by the Collector. The loans above Rs. 700 require the sanction of the Commissioner.

On receipt of an application for loans under any of the two Acts, the Collector or Subdivisional Officer first ensures that the application is genuine and grant of loan appears *prima facie* to be desirable. For this purpose, the Collector or Subdivisional Officer makes an enquiry or causes an enquiry to be made by an officer not below the rank of *Kanungo*, or by a reliable non-official agent, for the purpose of ascertaining several particulars such as the area of the land. status of the applicant, that is, whether proprietor, tenure-holder, etc., nature and value of immovable property offered as security, the pre-existing encumbrances on the property, names, status and means of sureties, suitable date for the repayment of the first instalment with reference to the circumstances under which the loans are applied for, proposed instalments and period of repayment, and the date on which the loan should be received by the applicant. In the case of a loan under the Land Improvement Loans Act, the estimated utility and the value of the work proposed to be undertaken, probable cost of the work, and the probable date on which the work will begin to yield profit are also required to be reported by the official

conducting the enquiry. Particular care is also taken to ascertain what encumbrances there are on the land to be improved; and, in cases in which doubts arise, a notice is issued by the Collector or Subdivisional Officer, calling upon any person objecting to the loan, to appear before him at a time or place to be fixed in the notice and to submit his objections. Such notices are published by being fixed in a prominent place in the village in which the land to be improved is situated. After considering such evidences as the objecting parties may produce, the Collector or Subdivisional Officer may admit the objection or overrule them.

After completion of the enquiry and disposal of the objections, if any, the Subdivisional Officer sends the application to the Collector with his opinion as to whether the loan is to be sanctioned or not. In considering the application for a loan, the Collector is to decide (1) whether the need for the loan is established, (2) whether the security offered is sufficient, (3) the amount that should be advanced, (4) the number of instalments and (5) the period that is to be allowed before repayment commences. The rules require the Collector to satisfy himself that the advance made to the cultivator is sufficient to cover so much of the total outlay required for the construction of the work as the borrower is unable to provide out of his own resources.

In the case of loans given under the Land Improvement Loans Act, where the amount of the loan does not exceed three-fourths of the value of the applicants' transferable interest in the land after carrying out the improvement, no collateral security is required. Where this condition is not satisfied, further security consisting of transferable interests in other lands belonging to the applicant or to other persons willing to become his sureties is demanded. Lands which are not transferable without the landlord's consent are not ordinarily to be accepted as security. Where a body of five or more co-villagers bind themselves jointly and severally for the repayment of the loan, their personal security will generally be sufficient, provided the loan does not exceed five times the annual rent of the land held by members of the group.

In the case of loans given under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, the loan may be given against the guarantee of a third party possessing transferable interest in immovable property.

The loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act are generally repayable in instalments within a period not exceeding 20 years, while the loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act are repayable within one or two years. The dates for repayment of loans under both the Acts are fixed by the Collector with due regard to the dates of harvest of principal crops, and under the Land Improvement Loans Act the time when the profit begins to accrue. The

ordinary rate of interest on both the types of loans is 6¼ per cent per annum. From the procedure indicated it would be appreciated that a loan under either of the two Acts will not be quickly available. The procedure is rather involved and will necessitate the presence of the applicant in the court offices several times. Allegations of corruption in the court offices are commonly made. But at the same time a certain amount of enquiry is absolutely necessary to avoid the influx of spurious applications. The incidence of the realisation of loans under the Acts has been poor and the State Government is finding it a problem to get an automatic realisation. This fact alone shows that in spite of the enquiries there is a certain amount of leakage and the loans may not have been always properly utilised.

Under the above stated heads the agriculturists of the district have been provided State assistance in the shape of loans by Government. A list of loans advanced to the agriculturists from 1948-49 to 1960-61 under agriculturists' loans, in which *taccavi* loans are also included is given below:—

AGRICULTURISTS' LOANS

Year	Allotment received (in rupees)	Loans advanced (in rupees)
1948-49	10,10,000.00	1,06,000.00
1949-50	2,40,000.00	23,000.00
1950-51	10,00,000.00	7,35,000 00
1951-52	27,50,000.00	22,00,000.00
1952-53	15,00,000.00	14,23,325 00
1953-54	2,48,345.00	2,48,935.00
1954-55	14,00,000.00	13,50,000.00
1955-56	20,00,000.00	19,50,000.00
1956-57	3,85,000 00	3,85 000 00
1957-58	17,25,000.00	17,25,000.00
1958-59	22,00,000.00	21,83,155.00
1959-60	2,00,000.00	14,065.00
1960-61	1,00,000.00	16,050.00

The above figures have been given by the Relief Section, Collectorate, Bhagalpur. A scrutiny of them will show that in the years 1951-52, 1955-56, 1957-58 and 1958-59 both the allotment

and the loans advanced were high. This is because in those years either there was flood, drought or total failure of crops in the district. From the figures discussed above it also appears that the material condition of the agriculturists was not good, so they had to take loans from Government.

Besides, Land Improvement Loans were also advanced to the agriculturists for improving the methods of utilising the fields so that they may yield more production. The following are the figures which show the amount of loans advanced to the agriculturists from the year 1951-52 to 1960-61:—

Year	Allotment received	Loans advanced
	Rs.	Rs.
1951-52	6,05,000	5,32,000
1952-53	2,00,000	1,80,852
1953-54	50,000	39,198
1954-55	50,000	31,200
1955-56	1,00,000	99,592
1956-57	51,000	7,770
1957-58	60,000	15,000
1958-59	1,00,000	35,893
1959-60	30,000	15,310
1960-61	15,000	1,410

The above figures show that the amounts allotted and advanced from 1956-57 to 1960-61 have been less as compared to 1951-52 to 1955-56. The above amounts indicated against the allotments of 'Land Improvement Loans' also include the amounts given for the reclamation of waste lands.

Floods, Famines and Scarcity

On reference to Hunter's Statistical Account of the district of Bhagalpur (1877), it will be seen that Hunter has mentioned about famines and scarcity in 1770, 1775, 1779, and 1783. There was a very severe drought in 1779 in Bhagalpur which was then subordinate to the Supervisor of Rajmahal. There is no mention of famines or scarcity between 1783 and 1866. There is no reason to think that this period was free from any scarcity and all that could be

said is that Hunter could get no records for scarcity or famine. Hunter describes the famine of 1866 in great details. There was again a famine in 1874 due to failure of crops caused by irregular rains. Parts of Bhagalpur district were affected differently in 1874. Some of the portions affected have now gone over to Saharsa district.

J. Byrne in his District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) has based his description on famine and scarcity up to 1874 on Hunter's Statistical Account. He has continued the subject and has referred to famine and scarcity in the years 1889, 1892, 1896, 1897, 1902 and 1908-09.

Some of the references may be quoted. Hunter mentions that Mr. Harwood, the Supervisor reported that "the Zamindars are ruined, the lands not having yielded half produce for the last twelve months."* The drought continued up to the year 1775. The last District Gazetteer (1911) mentions "In September 1775, the Collector reported to the Governor-General and Council that, 'as the drought still continues, the approaching harvest affords a very bad prospect throughout my districts, but particularly in those *Parganas* where the chief cultivation is the early grain. The late crops were good ; but grain has for some time past sold at an advanced price, from the unfavourable appearance of the next harvest. The settlement has been made good, but I very much apprehend great deficiencies in the revenue in the ensuing year. The growth in the most plantiful year not being sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants, the price grain bears in the markets of my district depends in a great degree on the adjacent provinces from which supplies are drawn."

Regarding the drought of 1779 the last District Gazetteer (1911) mentions:—

> " 'As there is no appearance of a change in the weather', writes the Collector 'it is with much concern I am under the necessity of representing to the Honourable Board, that the severe drought which we have experienced in this part of the country for some time past, has alarmed the landholders in general to so great a degree, that they absolutely refuse to make themselves responsible for the current year's revenue, without a considerable remission ; or upon such terms as must in the end prove very disadvantageous to Government. The country is certainly in a most alarming situation. The lands which ought to have been cultivated six weeks or two months ago, are still lying waste for want of rain, as a result

* *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1911) by J. Byrne, p.93.

of which little or nothing is to be expected from the *bhadoi* harvest ; and the *aghani* or principal rice harvest, which should be sown by this time, will suffer materially if we have not a change of weather very shortly. To add to the distress which the inhabitants must necessarily experience from the extreme heat, the tanks and wells in the interior parts of the country are entirely dried up ; scarce a village in the district has escaped being burnt to the ground ; the cattle are dying for want of grass ; and grain in general, notwithstanding every method is taken to supply the markets as usual, is every day apparently more difficult to be procured, and of course rising in price. The country being in this situation, I have in vain used my endeavours with the Zamindars to prevail on them to renew their leases for the present year's revenue, agreeably to your orders. They absolutely refuse, except on terms which will reduce the revenue about one-eight, or from Rs. 1,71,771 to Rs. 1,50,300.' "

Famine of 1866

The famine of 1866 was not so severe in Bhagalpur as in other districts. There was general distress due to high prices of food. The difficulties were enhanced by the failure of the *marua* crop in the northern *parganas*. Severe distress was felt in October, 1865. The commonest kind of rice had risen to the rate of 11 seers for the rupee.

Relief depots were supplied with grain imported from other districts on the north side of the river Ganga. The highest average number of persons relieved gratuitously throughout the district during the months of August and September when the distress was the greatest, did not exceed 1,108 persons ; and the largest average number employed on labour, supplied as a means of relief during any month, was about 700.

Regarding the high prices in the south of Ganga, J. Byrne mentions in the last District Gazetteer (1911) as follows:—

"On the south of the Ganges, high prices were chiefly due to large exportation to the Patna Division. The Deputy Collector of Banka wrote:—'I think the high price of rice, and of pulses too, is owing mainly to the *mahajans* buying up the grain for export to the western provinces. I believe the general outcry at present is not of bad crops, but of the scarcity of grain caused by export. If grain continues at its present price up to the harvest time, the lower classes in this subdivision will not suffer extreme want. I cannot say what the

consequences of a bad harvest and exportation combined will be next year, but I think famine in such a contingency is not improbable'."

FAMINE OF 1874

Regarding the famine of 1874 the last District Gazetteer refers to the Minute of Sir Richard Temple, dated 19th February 1874, which mentions that the Collector did not apprehend any serious distress but scattered outbreaks of distress owing to the high range of prices.

FAMINE OF 1896-97

Last District Gazetteer (1911) mentions regarding the above famine as follows:—

"The scarcity in 1896-97 was due mainly to the general rise in prices consequent on the widespread failure of crops in Upper India which caused prices to advance rapidly. The free supply of foodgrains was exported, and in consequence the local supplies fell short. Between October 1896 and September 1897 the total exports of foodgrains from the district exceeded the imports by nearly 83,000 tons. The same is true of the scarcity in 1892 but to a less degree. The experience of those two years makes it difficult for local officers to calmly acquiesce in a policy of unrestricted export, in consequence of which hundreds of thousands suffer privations that a few bunnias may grow wealthy. It is the poorest of the poor that suffer the pinch of scarcity first and that recover from it last. At times the greed of the local grain dealers brings its own punishment. Thus in 1903 around Banka, in consequence of the failure of the rains, the local bunnias put up the prices. The result was an indiscriminate and unrestricted outbreak of grain looting that lasted for three days about."

Mr. James Robinson, District Engineer, Bhagalpur had mentioned in his written statement before the Famine Commission, 1898 as follows:—"In North Bhagalpur relief works opened in the middle of January, 1897, and closed on the 10th July of the same year. In South Bhagalpur the first of the three testworks opened in April, and they were all finally closed in the third week of June. The total expenditure from Provincial and Local funds upon relief operations amounted to Rs. 1,04,480, out of which Rs. 26,609 represents the cost of rations, doles and allowances to persons gratuitously relieved. The maximum daily attendance of workers was 24,565 men, women and children and that in the week ending

8th May, over fifteen works ; the establishment at this period being one supervisor, one non-official "charge superintendent" and fifteen "officers in charge". The contents of this paper relate to relief works, and do not deal with other measures of relief which did not come within the range of the writer's duties."

Scarcity in 1908-09

The rainfall was very poor in 1908-09. Scarcity was apprehended. The last District Gazetteer (1911) mentions regarding it as follows:—

> "The first warning of impending danger was submitted as early as August, 1908 when it was obvious that there was a widespread failure of rains. After August, the only big fall of rain was registered at Banka, 10.97 inches having fallen in September and 89 in October. But this was by no means a general fall as the northern portion of this subdivision suffered as much from short rainfall as the Sadar subdivision. South of the Ganges there were literally hundreds of square miles left absolutely fallow, without a crop of any sort being planted out. But the crops of previous years had been good and the cultivators were well prepared to stand a strain. The landless labourers cleared out in thousands to look for employment elsewhere."

It further mentions that "Agricultural loans were freely distributed to enable the cultivators to sow *rabi* crops, but unfortunately the failure of the hoped-for rains in December and January nullified to a large extent the beneficial results that were expected.

"The local officers were able to induce zamindars and other wealthy persons to avail themselves of the abundant supply of labour for the excavation or re-excavation of tanks and wells ; and for the construction of bunds and irrigational channels."

Later Scarcities

Facts about the later famines and scarcities are available in the Land Revenue Administration Reports of the district. After the scarcity in 1908-09 general scarcity condition prevailed in 1916-17 and 1917-18 due to the heavy floods of August in the district The floods affected different crops and temporary distress was caused. In 1919-20 famine had to be declared in the district south of the Ganga. The people were given Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists' Loans. They were given money for purchasing seed and some arrangements for the employment of labourers were also made. In 1923-24, in Bhagalpur Division the rainfall was late, deficient and ceased early in most parts of the district,

and there was a total failure of *Hathia* rains. In consequence of the lateness of the monsoon a magnificent *Makai* crop had been grown over the Ganga but floods of August destroyed it wholly. Distress was felt in the district. The people were able to tide over the year partly with the help of Agriculturists' Loans.

In the years 1924-25, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29, 1934-35, 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40, the district was visited by floods either of the Kosi or the Ganga. Due to the floods there was distress amongst the people of the district. The people were given money as gratuitous relief in the shape of seeds, house building grants, etc.. to alleviate distress in the affected areas. In January 1934, Earthquake had caused a heavy damage in the district and there was a great distress in certain areas. The Earthquake had no adverse effect on agriculture in this district. Several buildings including the buildings of the residence of the Executive Engineer and the Office of the Excise Superintendent of Bhagalpur were damaged

On account of failure of crops in 1940-41 the general condition of the people in Banka and parts of the Sadar subdivision in Bhagalpur caused anxiety. The failure was due to untimely rain.

From 1941 onwards there was a phenomenal rise in the prices of the foodgrains, short supply of essential commodities and the purchasing power of money started falling. The spiral rise of the price of foodgrains benefited the actual growers to some extent but to the service holders, professionals and others there was a period of stress and strain which has continued since. The first rise in the prices and short supply were due to the after effect of the Second World War but the price level has not been allowed to fall by other circumstances. From this period onwards the incidence of savings in the common man started falling and not much reserve has been left to withstand scarcity.

Scarcity of 1948-49

Amarpur, Belhar and Katoria Police Stations and also parts of Shahkund and Sonhaula Police Stations in the Banka and Sadar subdivisions of the district were affected by drought during the year 1948. Transplantation of paddy was very badly hampered due to the failure of timely rains. This had resulted in total loss of paddy crop in the affected areas. Unfortunately, due to excessive rain, *rabi* crops also suffered in its early state in the areas. The failure of the paddy in these areas has resulted in the cultivators eating up even their seed stock kept for the next paddy sowing season. Circle no. 6 of the Amarpur Police Station was the worst affected.

Relief Measures

Relief measures were taken. Loans under the different Acts for the purchase of seeds and *Taccavi* loans were made available. Arrangements for the opening of Fair Price Shops, etc., were made.

Scarcity of 1951-52

Scarcity conditions were badly felt due to the failure of timely rains. The material condition of the people recorded a great setback.

Middle class families and all those with fixed income were hard hit. Relief works were also arranged on a liberal scale. With a view to provide work to the poorer sections of the people and unskilled labourers a large number of minor irrigation schemes were taken up. *Taccavi* loans and Land Improvement Loans were given liberally.

Scarcity of 1957-58

There was scarcity due to loss of *Aghani* paddy to the extent of 57 per cent during the year due to failure of *Hathia* rains and continued drought and also loss of *Rabi* crops to the extent of about 80 per cent for want of adequate moisture. Sonhaula, Shahkund and Pirpainty Anchals of Banka subdivision were worst affected pockets.

Officers were posted at different *Anchals* for giving priority to matters relating to the organisation of relief in their respective *Anchals*. Relief measures had to be undertaken all over the district. These included opening of 546 Fair Price Shops throughout the district, distribution of *Taccavi* and Land Improvement Loans to the agriculturists, execution of hard and light manual labour schemes and gratuitous relief. Realisation of Government dues through certificate procedure was stayed. The following amounts were spent during the year 1957-58 on different items of relief :—

	Rs.
(1) Hard Manual Labour Schemes	12,14,649
(2) Light Manual Labour Schemes	6,000
(3) Agriculturists' Loan	17,24,950
(4) Land Improvement Loan	59,399
(5) Natural Calamity Loan	51,990

Scarcity of 1958-59

The year was preceded by total failure of two main crops of the district, namely, *Rabi* and *Aghani*, causing distress among the people. In order to relieve their distress, relief measures including distribution of gratuitous relief were taken in the district. Relief to the landless labourers was provided through hard manual labour schemes. Relief to the middle class specially to unattached female widows, orphans, etc., was provided through light manual labour schemes. On different items of relief the following amounts were spent during the year 1958-59 :—

	Rs.
(1) Hard Manual Labour Schemes	24.35,000
(2) Light Manual Labour Schemes	2,42,200
(3) Gratuitous Relief including relief for Fire and Flood.	1,40,000

Scarcity of 1959-60

The years of 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59 were bad years of drought for the district. In 1959-60 both the maize and paddy crops were damaged because of floods in the rivers. The paddy crop was affected due to excessive rain and cyclonic weather in the latter part of the rainy season which caused breaches in protective embankments specially in river Burna and Chandan. These breaches devastated large tracts of paddy fields and rendered them sandy. Due to excessive rains the yield was affected. North Bhagalpur and some of the pockets in the south, namely, Sonhaula, Pirpainty, Amarpur and portions of Belhar and Sultanganj remained affected due to either flood, lack of rain or excessive rain necessitating distribution of gratuitous relief and provision for medical and public health facilities. Expenditure for finalising hard manual labour schemes of previous years was also incurred during the year 1959-60. The following amounts were spent to clear arrear dues and provide relief :—

	Rs.
(1) Hard Manual Labour Schemes .. .	1,33,982
(2) Light Manual Labour Schemes .. .	4,716
(3) Gratuitous Relief including relief for Fire and Flood.	1,06,177
(4) Medical and Public Health	10,000

Floods

The characteristics of the principal rivers of North Bhagalpur have been fully described by Shri P. C. Ghosh in his "Treatise on North Bihar Flood Problems" (1948). Although now the bulk of North Bhagalpur goes to form Saharsa district, the observations are pertinent.

The river system of Bhagalpur district even after the carving out of the Saharsa district consists of a reach of the Ganga about 60 miles in length with numerous Himalayan effluents on the north bank; and on the south a few hill streams which during the greater part of the year are sandy water courses, but in the rainy season swell up and assume considerable size, unnavigable, however, from their rapidity and the uncertainty of their floods.

The Ganga first touches Bhagalpur district at Tulsipur, and for about 10 miles forms the boundary between parganas Jahangira in Bhagalpur and Pharkiya in Monghyr; it then regularly enters the district opposite the township of Sultanganj, where a great mass of granite rises out of its bed. Thence the vast river flows with two great bends, the first northward round the town of Bhagalpur and the second southward to Colgong, where it meets a low range of hills by which its course is again diverted in an almost northerly direction for eight miles until it reaches Pathargghatta. At that point it receives the united water of the Kosi and all the northern rivers of the district.

Bhagalpur town is situated on the right bank of the river. It is the headquarters of the district and is the seat of the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division. It is connected with the northern portion of the district by a ferry of the North-Eastern Railway.

The river Ganga occasionally recedes from the town of Bhagalpur. About 25 years back the river was flowing just by the side of an inhabited portion of the town and the *ghats*, Buranath, Adampur, Khanjarpur and Mayaganj were touching the river and in the flood season the river frequently entered into portions of the town through creeks. The steamer service of B. I. S. N. Company and another steamer service belonging to Bhaggu Singh used to halt at Adampur *ghat*. But the main channel of the river Ganga has now gone away from the town about a mile or two at different places. Barari *ghat*, however, continues to be just by the riverside. The recession of the river at Barari is much less. The very old generation of Bhagalpur fondly remembers that the Ganga deserts the edge of the town but usually comes back again in 25 or 30 years.

There are two categories of rivers in the district. Rivers which have their sources in the snows of the Himalayas like the Ganga and the Kosi are in the first category. The Ganga flows from west to east and the Kosi flows into the Ganga from the north. They begin rising in the summer months long before the rainy season due to the melting of snows. They are perennial rivers. The Ganga has got a long course before it enters this district. Otherwise sluggish she gains in velocity during the rainy season only. As the course of the Kosi is comparatively very short, the river is

rapid and very destructive. If there is a heavy rainfall even higher up in the basin of these rivers a flood is bound to occur in them which may take an alarming turn if the rainfall is usually heavy.

In the second category of rivers are those that have their sources in the hills in the Santhal Parganas to the south of the district. These rivers are generally dry during the summer and winter months and are full occasionally in the rainy season when there is heavy rainfall. The rivers Chandan, Cheer, Badua, Gabua, Sukhania, Gahira, Bhaira, Kataria, Orhari, Bilasi and Khalkhalia belong to this category. They ultimately fall into the Ganga. During the rainy season they carry a large quantity of water mixed with sand and their currents are very rapid eroding their banks. If the rainfall is very heavy, destructive floods are caused. Of these rivers Chandan and Cheer are the most notorious for their floods.

It is rather peculiar that although floods in this district have become quite common occurrences, we do not find much reference to floods in the old literature. Buchanan Hamilton who had visited Bhagalpur district in 1810-11 has not mentioned anything particular about the floods although he has given a rather elaborate description of the rivers. All that he mentions about floods and embankment is as follows :—

> "There are no embankments for excluding floods of any considerable size, and the number of small ones even is altogether inconsiderable. In fact I heard of only one of the banks of the Gumanmardan, which is about 60 cubits long and 2 or 3 cubits high, and of a few on the creeks near Kahalgang that were still less considerable. In this district no banks have been erected to procure an equal distribution of the water, nor is the country in general adapted for this improvement. In the south-east part of the district, it is sometimes necessary in the beginning of the fair weather to make drains, in order to take the water from low parts, so as to admit of the plough for sowing the winter crops; and this practice might be extended with the utmost advantage to the part on the north side of the Ganges, where with a little pains I have no doubt most of the swamps might be rendered fit for crops of this nature " *

P. W. Murphy, I. C. S., in his "Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the Bhagalpur District 1902—10" mentions :—

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*From *An Account of the District of Bhagalpur in* 1810—11, by Francis Buchanan, p. 450 (Patna : 1939).

"The rivers in the south of the district all take their rise in the Sonthal Pargana hills. The slope of the country being steeper than in the north, the character of these streams is different from that of the rivers which flow into the Kosi. They carry little water at ordinary times, but are subject to sudden and dangerous floods when heavy rainfall occurs in the area from which they are fed. The chief of these is the Chandan which is important on account of the part it plays in the irrigation system of the district. The Chir, which flows along the east of the district, has been the cause of several floods, the last and most destructive of which took place in 1899 and was accompanied by considerable loss of life. These floods by depositing sand have caused the soil of the area affected to deteriorate in quality, and rendered it less fertile than that of any other portion of the south of the district with the exception of the *tanr* lands in Banka and Katauria."*

Regarding floods in Bhagalpur, the last District Gazetteer (1911) mentions as follows :—

"About 1860, the great main road from Bhagalpur through Deoghar to Suri was constructed across these low lands. The work had scarcely been completed, when a great flood came down the Chandan, swept through the petty embankments of the zamindars, breached the new road in several places and broke down some bridges. Attention was strongly called to the condition of the river, which was made the subject of a report in May 1864, by the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle."

From this report the following particulars are derived :—

"The Chandan is a river which has its source in the hills about Deoghar in the Sonthal Pargana, and, for the first half of its course, is fed by numerous tributaries, also rising in the hills. At about thirty miles from its embouchure into the Ganges, it begins to throw off branches to the eastward, and, twenty miles nearer its termination, also to the westward. It thus gradually loses nearly the whole body of water it brings down, the main channel at its junction with the Ganges being reduced to insignificant dimensions. At its greatest width, the Chandan is about 1,500 feet from bank to bank.

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* *Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the Bhagalpur District 1902–1910* by P. W. Murphy, I.C.S., pp. 4-5 (Calcutta : 1912).

From the long continued practice of embanking, its bed is actually higher than the land on either side. Being a hill stream, it is liable to sudden and violent inundations; but, except when in flood, the channel is a dry bed of gritty sand, bounded on either side by artificial embankments pierced throughout with innumerable cuts for irrigation purposes."

The last Gazetteer also mentions :—

"In 1899 (September) the eastern part of South Bhagalpur including the country about Colgong suffered very severely from a heavy flood. Owing to the bursting of a cyclonic storm the river Chandan breached its embankment and flooded all the country in the neighbourhood of Ghogha, washing away the railway bridge near that place. At least 1,800 lives were lost and 25,000 houses were destroyed. Numbers of cattle perished, and loans were freely given to enable the ryots to purchase new cattle."

Natural calamities in Bhagalpur district are mostly due to drought and in a less degree to floods. The problem of floods has been complicated by a number of private embankments put in for parochial interest. Such embankments are more common in North Bhagalpur. Chandan embankment, however, has been the responsibility of the Revenue Department since a very long time.

Although severe floods are not very common, floods of moderate degree have been a common source of damage. The Land Revenue Administration Reports will indicate that there have been floods of varying intensity in the years 1916-17, 1917-18, 1923-24, 1924-25, 1925-26, 1927-28, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1934-35, 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40.

Most of these floods are due to Kosi and Ganga rivers.

In recent years the flood in 1948 of the river Ganga and the flood in 1961 because of Ganga and continuous rainfall for days during *Hathia* season which brought in floods in practically all the rivers require particular mention.

Flood of 1948-49

The Ganga showed a steady rise from the 9th September, 1948, at about 10 p.m. and it continued rising with an extraordinary speed till the 17th September, 1948. The flood, however, began to subside from the 17th September and the district was completely out of danger by the 20th September, 1948.

An area of approximately 600 square miles was covered by the flood. Ten thanas were badly affected. A considerable number of mud houses had collapsed or were partially damaged. There was, however, no loss of human life or cattle in the district. Standing crops, comprising of *Bhadai* paddy and *Rabi* crops to the extent of 25 per cent were badly damaged in the villages affected by the flood. No epidemic broke out in any area due to timely precautionary measures of sanitation and medical aid by the Public Health Department as well as by the District Board.

Relief Measures

On the 13th September, 1948 when the Ganga started suddenly rising, rescue and evacuation work as well as relief started in full swing. Four officers were deputed for the work and thirteen non-officials co-operated with the Government. Three evacuation centres were opened and about one hundred boats and two steamers were employed for rescue and evacuation work. More than three thousand persons and one thousand heads of cattle were rescued from the flood encircled villages and taken to the evacuation centres. The people thus evacuated were fed at Government cost and arrangement for fodder had also been made for feeding the rescued cattle. Free seed, cash relief and house building loan were advanced to the flood stricken people. Nine centres were opened for distribution of cash and other kinds of relief. Nine officers and other non-officials were engaged in these operations.

Government had sanctioned Rs. 1,02,000 and Rs. 15,000 for free distribution of seeds and for giving house building relief, respectively, out of which Rs. 90,809 was actually spent.

Flood of 1961

There was a very heavy flood in October 1961 along with excessive *Hathia* rains. A flood due to the *Hathia* rains is rather unprecedented. There were torrential rains and local storms. The Ganga and Chandan rivers showed a steady rise from 2nd October, 1961 and continued rising till the 1st week of October, 1961. The floods in the northern parts of the district was caused by river Ganga and the southern parts by river Chandan.

About 569 villages covering a population of about 2,38,665 and extending over an area of more than one thousand square miles were affected. The *anchals* affected were Pirpainti, Colgong. Sabour, Jagdishpur, Nathnagar, Sultanganj, Shahkund. Bihpur, Naugachhia in Sadar subdivision and Amarpur, Rajaun, Banka and Shambhuganj in Banka subdivision. About 11,105 houses were damaged. The areas Jagdishpur, Nathnagar, Sultanganj, Shahkund and Bihpur Blocks were worst affected. Villages Belthu, Harpur,

Sarha, Kapsouna, Basiatola, Goriasi, Sikaritola and Dariapur in Shahkund, Srirampur and other villages in Sultanganj, Ranoochak, Makandpur, Kishanpur, Fatehpur, Bhowalpur, Puranisarai, Bhatoria, Chit Makanpur, Chouwania, Golahu Kathaili in Nathnagar Anchal, Puraini, Jagdishpur, Baluachak, Tessor, Tardiha, Makna in Jagdishpur Anchal, village Amarpur in Colgong Anchal and village Sarath in Sabour Block were very badly affected. Katoria, Bounsi, Chandan and Dhoraiya *anchals* of Banka subdivision were unaffected by the floods.

As reported, in Sultanganj, Shahkund, Nathnagar and Bihpur *anchals* standing paddy crops were partially affected. *Arhar* and *Kalai* crops over an area of 8,624 acres were also damaged. The lowlying countryside was a sheet of water for a number of days. A vast area of land, from Puraini to south of Jagdishpur on Bhagalpur-Dumka road was an example. More than two dozen of villages lying in that belt were partially under water.

Communications were disrupted by a number of breaches, large and small. The protective *Bundh* running parallel to the Dumka road, from Chandan bridge near village Puraini to Jagdishpur was breached at several places. Bhagalpur-Mandar Hill Railway branch line was breached and railway communication was affected. The following roads had some breaches:—

(1) Akbarnagar-Shahkund Road, (2) Bhagalpur-Dumka Road, (3) Bhagalpur-Monghyr Road, (4) Dhakamore-Banka Road, (5) Amarpur-Shahkund Road, (6) Sultanganj-Darapur-Belhar Road, (7) Banka-Amarpur Road and (8) Surya-Sahebganj Road.

Relief operations on a liberal scale were immediately launched by the State Government. Several non-official bodies from beyond the State came to help in the relief operations. Boats were placed for rescue and evacuation work in the affected areas. For speedy relief operation the entire flooded area of the district was divided into 20 zones and each zone was placed incharge of a gazetted officer.

Gratuitous relief in the shape of grains, rugs and cloth was distributed. Kerosene oil, *gur* and salt were made available in the affected areas. The villagers were given *taccavi* loans. Milk centres were opened to supply milk. Tarpaulines and tents were sent to be used mainly as temporary sheds for the affected villages. Besides these relief measures taken by Government certain non-official agencies, namely, Sahu Jain Industrial House, the Aryasthan *Seva Samiti*, the Marwari Relief Society and Kashi Vishwanath *Seva Samiti* had also worked for providing relief to the flood sufferers of the district at several places. Money was raised by

several agencies within and beyond the State. The Governor's Relief fund collected the largest amount among all the Relief funds and granted cash grants to Bhagalpur district as well.

Seventy-nine more Fair Price Shops had been opened to cope with the heavy demand. Two hundred and fifty Fair Price Shops had been functioning since before in the district.

Twenty-four health centres and sub-centres and twenty-four veterinary centres were immediately opened for preventive and curative works. The wells of the district were disinfected twice and a large number of persons were inoculated or vaccinated. In some of the affected villages there was an outbreak of cholera and twenty-one human lives were lost. There were about 300 cattle lost.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Old time Industries

The district of Bhagalpur has been famous for its industrial potentiality since long. Tasar Silk, Dyeing, Salt, Indigo, Glass-ware were some of the chief industries. There were occupational castes in the past that mainly followed some of the industries.

Besides, there were a number of small-scale industries, some of them are still continuing and have been dealt separately. D stil-lation has completely disappeared from scene.

Buchanan has mentioned that basket makers were called "Dom Bansphor" who made baskets (*Dalis*), winnowing fans (*Sup*), and fans for cooling the air (*Pangkha*). They also made on special orders umbrellas, screens for doors (*chik*) and large circular basket that serves as granaries (*Dol*).

The tanners belonged to two groups, one who usually made shoes, ropes, drum heads and saddles and cover basket. They were called *Chamar* in western parts and *Muchi* in eastern part.

The second type of the tanners made leather bags for holding extract of sugarcane, molasses, boiled butter and oil.

Numerous distillers were also engaged in distilling wine from *Mahua* flowers. Buchanan has given the method of distillation in his book "An account of the District of Bhagalpur in 1810-11" as follows:—"The dry flowers, with equal to double quanti-ties of water, are put in round earthen pots with rather narrow mouths, and exposed to the weather to ferment. This process is finished in from four to eight days, according to the heat of the weather. The whole fermented mass, flowers and water, are put into a still, and the spirit is drawn slowly off. It is never recti-fied, and after distillation is always very much diluted with water, owing to which it will not keep above 15 days, and it is best when fresh from the still." Blacksmiths and carpenters were very close to one another in their profession. It was even diffi-cult to recognise them from profession. Those who made the implements of husbandry in some places were known as *Barhai* and in other places as *Lohar*. Some of the workmen were very superior. They made good household furniture. European fashion enthused them to a great extent to improve their art. The articles chiefly made were chairs, stools, couches and bedsteads but some of them also made tables.

It appears from Buchanan's account that boats were also made in this district.

Cloth Manufacture

Cloth manufacture was one of the important industries. Buchanan Hamilton has given an account of this industry the summary of which is as follows:—

> All castes are here permitted to spin, and near the Ganges, it was stated, that a large proportion of the women spin cotton, some all day but most only for a part; and it is employment suited well to the jealousy of the men. The cloth spun is very coarse, and is done by means of the small wheel. The number of women on the whole was estimated at about 1,60,000. But by taking an average of the various reports of the quantity of cotton required, of the thread spun, and of the value of each, it would appear that every woman, one with another, spins annually 16 seers 12½ chhataks of cotton wool (34 lbs. 7⅛ oz.), worth 6 rupees and 9½ annas and makes thread to the value of 11 rupees 1½ annas, having a profit of 4 rupees and 8¼ annas. Women who spin constantly of course make more and more money, who are much otherwise employed, make less. This statement so far as it relates to the quantity and profit belonging to each woman, seems pretty accurate, but the total number of women said to spin can by no means be reconciled with the quantity of raw materials said to be used. It was said, the cotton wool imported amounts annually to about the value of Rs. 2,76,000 which sold by retail, and fitted for spinning, will amount to Rs. 3,45,500; and what grows in the country, including that reared on the hills, may be about the value by retail of Rs. 1,25,000. These, according to calculation, would only employ 71,450 women, who would make thread to the value of about Rs. 7,92,600. About 1,98,000 rupees worth of this will be required for mixed cloth, carpets, sewing, etc., the remainder according to the average of estimates received, would make about 8,32,000 rupees of cloth.

Tasar Silk

This indigenous industry traces its history from long past. In 1810-11, Buchanan in his account has given a detailed description of this industry. Just after a century Mr. J. Byrne, I.C.S., has observed about this industry in his "Bhagalpur Gazetteer", the summary of which is as follows :

About 1810 Dr. Buchanan Hamilton estimated that there were about 3,275 looms at work in the district. Though this number has fallen off the industry is still considered an important one; though the processes of manufacture have not improved, and the looms are as rude as they were at the beginning of the century, being little more than bamboo frames. The kinds of cloth now, as then, most usually made are *dariyas* and two parts of *tasar* of the different colours. The wool is all cotton of one colour, so that the cloth is striped lengthways, being dyed entirely by the weavers in the thread. The pieces are from twenty to twenty-two cubits long, by one and a half broad. A man can weave eight pieces monthly. *Namunas* are pieces from twenty to twenty-two cubits long, and one and three cubits broad. The warp contains about 35 parts of cotton thread and 21 of *tasar*, disposed in stripes of a different pattern from those of the *dariya*. The woof is all cotton. One loom can produce seven pieces a month. *Charkhanas* are about 18 cubits long, and eight-sevenths of a cubit wide. Each loom weaves six pieces in the month. The warp requires ten parts of cotton, and fifteen parts of *tasar* so that the pieces are chequered. *Baftas* are pieces of a uniform colour, dyed after being woven, and of the same size with the *namunas*. The whole warp is *tasar*, the woof is cotton. The foregoing kinds are mostly made for exportation. *Kharsaris*, which are produced chiefly for home use, are like *dariyas*, but of inferior size and firmness, and afford occupation to a larger number of weavers than any other kind. They are made up in pieces about eight feet long and three wide, and are dyed by the weavers, who can make eight pieces a month. The pure *tasar* silk is called *tul*. *Dhupchhaya* is a *bafta* of a bright blue. *Maurkanti* is a white silk figured in blue. *Lahan gowal* is a figured silk worn only by Brahmans, Kayasths and Rajputs. The *koa* or cocoons of *tasar* come from Suri, Bankura, Gaya and the Santhal Parganas. Patwas, Momims, Tantis and Tatamas are the weaver castes most employed in this trade. The winding of the silk from the cocoons is effected by a very simple instrument called a *tariya*. Eight pounds weight of the cocoons are boiled with twice that amount of water, till all the water is evaporated. They are then left to cool, and next day are again boiled. The silk is then easily wound off, strands from five cocoons being generally used to form each thread. For cheaper work three strand threads are used and for better work, seven strand threads. They are twisted with the left hand on the left thigh and wound on the *tariya*.

Mr. J.G. Cumming, I.C.S., has given a brief economic position of these weavers in his book "Review of the Industrial Position and Prospects in Bengal in 1908"*:—

"Like practically all the cotton weavers, the *tussar* silk weavers are in the hands of their *mahajans*; but they are probably a little better off, midway between cotton weavers and silk weavers......................"

He had further stated about the development of this industry in the following words:—

"What the *tussar* weaving industry requires is a flying-shuttle mechanism for working *tussar*. I have tried several dodges myself but have not been successful. Infructuous efforts to introduce a fly-shuttle loom were made at Bhagalpur. One weaver of the Mourbhanj State, Bamdeb Uriya, is asserted to have succeeded; but I could not get this verified. The weavers of Kalipur Kodiya in Birbhum district succeeded only with a cotton warp and a *tussar* weft. The complaint is that the reeds of the sley fray the threads of the warp. The remedy may be in a device in the loom or in improved spinning..................

"Under the head of *tussar* can be considered *bafta* or mixed cloths. This is associated with Bhagalpur. A cotton *chadar* costs ten annas to Rs. 5 and lasts for two years; a *bafta chadar* costs Rs. 3 and 8 annas to Rs. 15, and lasts five or six years. In Champanagar I found that the *mahajans* were sweating the local craftsman; about eight annas was the labour return for four days' work. In Bhagalpur itself the Bihar Trading Company under Kabir Ahmad Khan of Mujahidpur is doing good work in advertising and circulating samples, issuing new designs to the weavers, and in financing them without extortion. This is a method which the middle class capitalist might follow with advantage where there is any colony of weavers who are at present following individualistic methods of purchase of yarn and sale of material."

A detailed description of the present position of this industry has been given later.

Glass Industry

Glass industry was also indigenous to Bhagalpur. Buchanan Hamilton has given a detailed description of the manufacture of

*District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur J. Byrne 1911 p. 126.

glass bracelets. Mr. J. Byrne, I.C.S. has mentioned that the industrial revolution gave a blow to this industry. An effort was made for the revival and a small glass factory was established at Colgong. The concern had to close down about 15 years back. The cost of getting fine sand from far and the overheads stood on the way and the concern could not stand in the competition.

SALTPETRE

Buchanan Hamilton has given a detailed account of the manufacture of saltpetre. The humidity of this place was favourable for the growth of nitrifying bacteria in wood and cowdung used as fuel which convert ammonia by successive stages into nitrous and nitric acid.

Persons engaged in this industry mostly came from a particular caste called "Noniya". Buchanan observes:—"The actual manufacturers are here called Nuniyas, or Saltmen and are of many different castes. At each furnace are employed from three to five persons, men and women. The latter boil; the former collect earth and fuel, for which they pay nothing. The quantity made in *Chhai* and *Pharkiva* varies from 800 to 1,400 mans, delivered to the Company, according as the season is dry or wet, but the average is about 1,300 mans, the unfavourable years being few. Each furnace, therefore, makes on an average 9 mans 7 sers heavy weight, for which the owners receive 26 rupees 6 annas Arcot); but these are commonly current. Each furnace employs two ordinary families, that is, two married men and their wives...."

Saltpetre had a good market outside India. This industry gradually declined due to the unfair treatment to the Noniyas by the Zamindars. The extraction was also hampered by restriction in the interest of salt revenue which made it economically wasteful. After sometime it got into a stiff competition with the German market. In 1913 India only produced 1/3rd salt of its requirement while $\frac{2}{3}$rd was supplied by Germany. The price per maund varied between Rs. 1/8/- to Rs. 3 as a result of which the average per day earning of each Noniya was between -/4/- to -/6/-.

In order to examine and enquire into the matter, an Industrial Commission was set up in 1916 which recommended for some concession but it was very meagre and a temporary relief. The industry could not stand the competition and declined.

DYEING

Dyeing was one of the important old industries of the district. Buchanan Hamilton has devoted pages in his account to the dyeing

industry and the indigenous dyers of the district. Byrne in the last *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1911) has mentioned:—

> "The following are the chief materials used:—The flowers of the *kusam* or safflower (Carthamus tincterius) ; the flowers of the *singhar* (Nyctanthes arbor tristis), and of the *tun* (Cedrela toona) ; the leaves of Indigofera tinctoria or indigo ; *tairi*, the pods of Caesalpinia sappan; the wood of the same tree ; *kath* (catechu or terra Japonica), obtained from Acacia catechu ; the root of the *haldi* (Curcuma zerumbet) ; the seeds of Bixa orellana; the fruit of the *karanja* or Galedupa Indica; the bark of the *am* or mango (Mangifera Indica); the flowers of the *palas* (Butea frondosa); the root of *manjit* or Indian madder (munjista) ; *singrif* or vermilion ; *zangar* or verdigris ; *sajimati*, an impure carbonate of soda : and *kassis*, a white and powdery sulphate of iron.

> "The following are the principal colours derived. The order given by Dr. Buchanan Hamilton is as follows (1) *Kakreja*, a dark brown, inclining to purple, is obtained by infusing 9 oz. of *tairi* in 10 lbs. of water for two hours ; the greater part of the water is strained off, and the cloth soaked in the remaining dye. Then 1 1/4 oz. of *Kassis* is dissolved in 10 lbs. of water, and the cloth put into the mixture for a few minutes after which it is dried in the sun. Other mordants may be used. Next, 1 1/4 oz. of alum is dissolved in a little hot water, added to 10 lbs. of cold water ; and in this the cloth is thoroughly soaked. Then boil 5 1/2 oz. of *sapan* wood in 30 lbs. of water for six hours, cool the decoction and steep the cloth in it for half-an-hour ; add to it 2 1/2 ozs. of lime, stir quickly, and put in the cloth again. Then wring and dry in the shade. (2) *Agari*, a brown , without any tinge of purple, is produced from 19 ozs. of bruised *tairi*, infused in 10 lbs. of water for about an hour and-a-half ; in this the cloth is soaked, *kassis* being the mordan used. Then, infuse 7 ozs. of terra Japonica in 10 lbs. of cold water ; add a little lime-water, and stir the infusion; dip into it the cloth, wring it and dry it in the sun. (3) *Uda*, a bright purplish brown, is derived from a weaker solution of *tairi* than is necessary for the last mentioned colour, and is similarly fixed by *kassis*. Afterwards, soak the cloth in the solution of alum, such as is first used in obtaining *kakreja*; and then place it for half an hour in a decoction of 10 ozs. of *sappan* wood, boiled for seven and-a-half hours in 40 lbs. of water, to which a little lime is added. (4) *Baigani*, a shade lighter than the above, and approaching to

claret colour, is produced in the same manner as the last, except that the decoction of *sappan* is less strong. (5) *Habasi*, a blood red, is produced by much the same treatment as the above, but alum is freely used, and the *sappan* infusion is prepared in the same manner as in the case of *uda*. (6) *Shotari*, a light brownish drab colour, is obtained from 5 ozs. of terra Japonica infused for a whole day in 1 lb. of water ; in this, when diluted, the cloth is steeped. The mordant is usually *kassis*. (7) For *taranji*, a bright gamboge yellow, 5 ozs. of turmeric are infused in 10 lbs. of cold water. The colour is fixed by alum mixed with 20 ozs. of sour curdled milk. (8) *Asmani* is a light sky-blue, made from 1 1/4 oz. of native indigo infused in abundant water. (9) In preparing *fakhta*, a bluish ash colour, first put the cloth into an infusion of 20 ozs. of *tairi* in 10 lbs. of water, and next into a solution of 2½ ozs. of *kassis* dissolved in a similar quantity of water. Then dry in the sun, and taking an infusion of 2 1/2 ozs. of powdered *haldi* root, steep the cloth in it. (10) In the case of *shishaha*, a pale blue, somewhat resembling the colour of lead, the process is the same as in producing *fakhta*, except that the cloth after being taken from the infusion of *kachur*, is put into an infusion of 5 ozs. of native indigo in 10 lbs. of water. It may be also made by omitting the *kachur* infusion. In the whole of these processes the dyers use well water alone, most of which near Bhagalpur is hard."

SOURCES OF POWER

The district has no provision for the supply of Hydro-Electric Power. There is no Thermal Station. The only source of power supply is the Bhagalpur Electric Supply Co., with Octavias Steel and Company as Managing Director. This is the main source of power supply in Bhagalpur, Nathnagar, Champanagar and Sabour. The firm gives employment to 141 persons out of whom 118 are labourers. Fuel used for generating electricity is crude oil. Its monthly generation of electricity is given below:—

			Units
November, 1959	..	..	5,07,580
December, 1959	..	..	5,21,060
January, 1960	..	..	5,75,535
February, 1960	..	..	5,68,225
March, 1960	..	..	5,85,233
April, 1960	..	..	6,39,320

The supply of electricity may broadly be categorised into four classes, namely, Domestic, Commercial, Industrial and others. A detailed list of units sold from November, 1959 to April, 1960 is given below:—

	November, 1959.	December, 1959.	January, 1960.	February, 1960.	March, 1960.	April, 1960.
Domestic ..	1,42,953	1,37,902	1,45,498	1,50,125	1,52,106	1,78,217
Commercial ..	41,764	43,179	46,642	42,605	42,438	48,041
Industrial ..	1,01,165	1,08,572	1,39,420	1,40,241	1,35,619	1,43,995
Others ..	1,34,577	1,39,295	1,45,146	1,38,325	1,42,680	1,67,458

The valuation against the total units sold from November, 1959 to April, 1930 is given below:—

			Amount.
			Rs.
November, 1959	..	..	1,26,790.34
December, 1959	..	..	1,27,336.00
January, 1960	..	..	1,36,633.18
February, 1960	..	..	1,38,072.52
March, 1960	..	..	1,37,880.15
April, 1960	..	..	1,58,080.51

It supplies electricity to 5,097 consumers out of which 4,871 belong to domestic group. The power that the present installation of Bhagalpur Electric Supply Company is capable of generating does not appear to be adequate. The city of Bhagalpur has had an enormous expansion in the course of the last one decade. The incidence of urbanisation is still on and there is no doubt that in another 10 years the requirements of electricity will go up much higher. In this connection it may be mentioned that Bihar has tremendously increased its power production in the recent years. In Bihar, the installed capacity of public supply undertakings was 202,978 K W in 1955, the corresponding generation being 440,322 million KW. The installed capacity of the self generating industrial plants was 285,322 KW, 40 per cent higher than the above and the corresponding output was 891,509 million KW.

Vigorous efforts have been made to increase the supply of electricity. In all a total investment of Rs. 10.89 was made during the First Plan period resulting in net addition of 7,000 K.W. of diesel capacity. The benefits of Damodar Valley Corporation system added over 150,000 KW of installed capacity. Progress of Bihar in the field of electrification has been most striking and

successful. The Bihar Government's plan envisages an outlay of Rs. 19.18 crores during the period of Second Plan. Bhagalpur has to play her part in this programme of expansion of electricity the consumption of which is an index of material prosperity and economic upgrading.

A branch office of Bihar State Electricity Board has been opened in Bhagalpur for stretching H.T. and L.T. Line for the supply of electricity in Bhagalpur. Bhagalpur Electric Supply Company is not installing additional generating machines in hope to get power supply from Bihar State Electricity Board on bulk supply basis. Regarding the present low incidence of consumption of electricity it may be mentioned that high rate of electricity has resulted in less consumption of energy for domestic purposes.

A chart of the rates for the supply of energy immediately preceding September 1, 1958, is given below:—

A. Domestic

(1) *Lighting and combined installations of lights and fans and for motors of 1 B.H.P. or less.*—44 nP. per unit subject to a rebate of 6 nP. per unit for payment of bills within 15 days of date of issues, and provided all previous outstandings have been paid.

(2) *Domestic Appliances when wired and metered on a separate circuit.*—25 nP. per unit.

(3) *Unmetered contract lighting.*—Not more than two 40 watt lamps in any installation and burning not more than 5 hours per day at the rate of Rs. 2.50 per month per lamp. Larger size of lamps in proportion.

(4) *Cinemas.*—The first 420 units per month—37 nP. per unit.

All units consumed in excess of 420 per month—27.5 nP. per unit.

(5) *Factory Lighting.*—When the consumption for lighting does not exceed 10% of the total offtake—

All at 30 nP. per unit.

Units consumed for lighting in excess of 10 % of the total offtake will be charged for at the standard lighting rate.

6. *Compound lighting.*—30 nP. per unit subject to a minimum of Re. 1 per month per unit.

B. Industrial

(7) Power on flat rates-L.T.—

(a) Restricted hour use.—23.50 nP. per unit.

(b) Unrestricted hour use.—30 nP. per unit.

(8) Power on Two Part Tariff.—

(a) *L. T. Supply*.—A charge of Rs. 10 per K.V.A. of maximum demand per month, plus the following unit charge:—

First 5,000 units per month—19.75 nP. per unit.
All units in excess of 5,000 per month—18.25 nP.

Subject to a rebate of 33 1/3% on the total energy bill for restricted hour use.

(b) *H. T. Supply*.—At the option of the company for large Industrial consumers guaranteeing a minimum monthly payment of Rs. 250.00 transformer and all high tension equipment being provided by the consumer and energy being metered at low tension—

A charge of Rs 7.00 per K.V.A. of maximum demand per month, plus the following unit charges:—

First 10,000 units per month—18.25 nP. per unit.
All units in excess of 10,000 per month—15.75 nP. per unit.

Subject to a rebate of 33⅓% on the total energy bill for restricted hour use.

Energy for Factory lighting up to ten per cent of the total monthly offtake will be allowed at the above rate. Any consumption in excess of ten per cent will be charged for at the standard lighting rate.

LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES

Regarding the industries and manufactures of the district of Bhagalpur it may be mentioned that there are no Mining or Heavy Industries, e. g., Collieries, Ship Building Industries, Manufacture of Machine Tools and Automobiles, etc.

In spite of a convenient water front for miles and fairly satisfactory Railway communications, Bhagalpur has not also got any

large scale industry, e.g., Textile Mills, Jute Mills, Sugar Factories, etc. It is rather peculiar that there could not have been at least a Textile Mill because Bhagalpur has a fairly well developed cloth industry as one of the principal small scale industries. It is said that Bhagalpur has got the largest colony of Marwaris in Bihar and their number and importance come only second in comparison to the Marwari Community in Kanpur. Practically every Marwari is a businessman and it is a proverb that "there is no poor Marwari". There are Marwari firms in Bhagalpur district who have been there for generations and who have sunk lacs of rupees in business. If Kanpur could be the centre of the large scale industries of Textile Mills there is no reason why Bhagalpur could not have been, also developed into a centre for large scale industries. Silk which has been an indigenous industry of Bhagalpur district is at a stage of a highly developed small scale industry and with the pooling of resources, initiative and organisation it is difficult to believe that silk manufacture in Bhagalpur could not have been developed as a large scale industry. There is no dearth of suitable sites in the umlands of Bhagalpur and there would not have been a dearth of skilled or unskilled labour. It appears that a lack of initiative has stood on the way of the development of a large scale industry of silk in this district. Similar observations may also be made regarding the development of a Sugar Factory in Bhagalpur. Round about Bhagalpur, in Colgong, Amarpur and other areas a considerable quantity of sugarcane is grown and investigation shows that the possibility of a Sugar Mill as a large scale industry in the district cannot be ruled out.

Industries and Manufactures of the District

Small-scale and Cottage Industries

Silk Industry—Bhagalpur has been a noted venue of silk industry since long. At present Bihar produces the largest quantity of Tassar silk in India. About 36,000 persons mainly members of Scheduled Tribes rear Tassar silk worms. About 80,000 *kahans* (one *kahan*-1280 cocoons) of Tassar cocoons are produced in the State, which give 1,60,000 lbs. of reeled yarn and 1,20,000 lbs. of Tassar waste.

10,000 handlooms are engaged in weaving Tassar silk. Tassar silk producing about 42,84,000 yards of pure Tassar and mixed fabrics value approximately Rs. 1.5 crores. There is an appreciable demand of Tassar silk fabrics in U.S.A. and other foreign countries. During 1958-59 Rs. 6,00,000 worth Tassar silk fabrics had been sent to U.S.A. only from Bhagalpur which is the biggest silk weaving centre in Bihar.

At present about 15,000 yards of Tassar silk fabrics valuing Rs. 1,25,000 are exported from this State every month. These statistics indicate clearly the resources of Bihar for silk industry in general and the district of Bhagalpur in particular.

Rearing of silk worms is done in different parts of Bihar but weaving is exclusively done in this district.

Different types of silk goods and spun silk fabrics, e.g., Shirting, Coating, Stole, Bedspread, *Chadar*, etc., are exported to different countries, specially to Sudan, West Germany, Switzerland, United States of America and Canada. Stoles and bedspreads are generally not manufactured out of pure silk and 60/2[5] M/S Tassar, 210/2[3] M/S Mulberry, 100/2[5] M/S Tassar and 60/2[5] Mulberry are the counts generally used.

An approximate price of the different good varieties has been given below:—

Shirting ..	.. Rs. 8 per yard.
Coating ..	.. Rs. 12 per yard.
Stole ..	.. Rs. 12.50 per yard.
Bedsheet (3 ½ yd. × 64") ..	.. Rs. 48 each.
Chadar (3 yds. × 52")	.. Rs. 25 each.

India does not hold any monopoly in this field. She has to compete with different countries, e.g., China, Central Asia, etc., in this field.

It is for this reason that there is the need for standardization of the product and there should be constant efforts to improve the type of goods produced.

From the statement submitted to the Central Silk Board by the Superintendent, Government Silk Institute, Nathnagar the present position in tabular form is shown:—

	Handlooms.	Powerlooms.
1. Total no. of Looms	11,000	2C5
2. No. of Looms engaged in weaving pure silk fabrics.	1,300	30
3. No. of Looms engaged in artificial silk fabrics	1,C00	15

TOTAL CONSUMPTION OF RAW SILK ON LOOMS DURING 1959.

		Lbs.	Kgms.
Imported ..	..	..	..
Filature (Indigenous)	..	1,000	563.5925
Charkha (Indigenous)	..	3,000	1360.7775
Total ..	..	4,000	1924.3700

TOTAL PRODUCTION OF FABRICS ON LOOM DURING 1959

Pure silk.	Handloom.		Power Loom.	
	Yards.	Metres.	Yards.	Metres.
(a) Tassar	6,25,000	5,71,500	..	..
(b) Eri	1,08,000	98,755.20	..	..
(c) Mulberry	1,20,000	1,09,728	..	..
(d) Muga	Nil	Nil	..	..
Total pure silk fabrics ..	8,53,000	7,79,983.20	1,72,800	1,58,008.32
Mixed fabrics	34,56,000	31,60,166.40	80,400	79,004.16
GRAND TOTAL ..	43,09,000	39,40,149.60	2,59,200	2,37,012.48

VARIETIES OF SILK FABRICS PRODUCED IN THE STATE DURING 1959.

Serial no.	Varieties of fabrics.	Price per yard.	Price per metre.	No. of looms.	Serial no.	Varieties of fabrics.	Price per yard.	Price per metre.	No. of looms.
							Rs.	Rs.	
1	Tassar silk shirting ..	Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per yard.	Rs. 5.44 to Rs. 6.56.	1,300	1	Mulberry silk shirting.	6	6.56	301 looms.
2	Tassar silk coating ..	Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 per yard.	Rs. 9.75 to Rs. 10.88.		2	Mulberry silk coating.	12 per yard.	13.12	
3	Tassar silk *sarees* 5 yds. x 46 inch each or 4.572 metres.	Rs. 26 to Rs. 30 each.	Rs. 26 to Rs. 30 each.						
4	Mulberry silk *sarees* price without border for printing.	Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 per yard.	Rs. 6.56 to Rs. 8.68						
5	H/S Tassar Twill Than 54" width.	Rs. 12 per yard.	Rs. 13.12						
6	Silk *chadar* 3 yds. x 54" or 2.7432 metre.	Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 each.	Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 each.						

MIXED SHIRTING.

Serial no.	Varieties.	Price per yard.	Price per metre.	No. of looms.
1	Mixed shirting	Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 4.	Rs. 2.75 to Rs. 4.37.	1,600
2	Mixed coating	Rs. 4 to Rs. 6.56.	Rs. 4.37 to Rs. 6 56.	
3	Mixed *chadar* 3 yards × 54″ each.	Rs. 8 to Rs. 12.	Rs. 8.72 to Rs. 13.12.	
4	*Sarees* 5 yards × 46″ each ..	Rs. 9 to Rs. 18 each.	Rs. 9.81 to Rs. 19.62.	

Serial no.	Varieties.	Price per yard.	Price per metre.	No. of looms.
1	Mixed shirting	Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.50.	Rs. 1.66 to Rs. 2.75.	
2	Mixed coating	Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 6.	Rs. 3.81 to Rs. 6.56.	

AN APPROXIMATE PRICE OF THE DIFFERENT GOOD VARIETIES FOR 1959 AND 1961 IS AS FOLLOWS :—

1959.

1. Shirting .. .. Rs. 5 to Rs. 9 per yard.

2. Coating .. .. Rs. 9 to Rs. 14 per yard.

3. Bedsheet (3 1/4 yards × 64") Rs. 50 each.

4. Chadar (3 yards × 52") .. Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 each.

5. Stole .. .. Rs. 10.50 per yard.

1961.

1. Shirting .. .. Rs. 13 only per yard.

2. Coating .. .. Rs. 17 only per yard.

3. Stole .. .. Rs. 12.50 only per yard.

4. Bedsheet (3 1/4 yards × 64") .. Rs. 55 each.

5. Chadar (3 yards × 52") .. Rs. 32 each.

Rearing

There are exclusively four kinds of silk worms, namely, Eri, Tassar, Mulberry and Muga. The last kind of silk worm is not reared in Bhagalpur.

Rearing of Eri Worms.—Eri silk is the cocoon of an insect which feeds on castor leaves. Eri worms were natives of Assam. They are bred entirely indoors. The worms are hardy. They thrive best in a warm and moist climate from July to December and in February and March. For their rearing, the best time is during the rains when the temperature and humidity vary from 75° to 85° F. and 85 to 95 per cent respectively.

Eri worms are multivoltine and are completely domesticated. Five or six crops can be taken in a year. The eggs hatch on 7th or 8th day after oviposition from March to November. From December to February, they hatch on the 13th to 21st day after oviposition. Eggs hatch regularly without the application of artificial heat.

The eggs are kept in a perforated box or in a piece of cloth or paper. They change into light blue colour before hatching. Tender and soft leaves are put over the newly hatched worms. They crawl up to feed upon them. The leaves are turned upside down after about ten minutes to enable crawling upon of sufficient number of worms. Then the leaves are transferred to a tray with the worms.

The full grown worms pass a semi-liquid excrement. They stop feeding, loose in weight and size and begin to wander about the tray from 9 to 12 A.M. Those worms also wander about which remain for long time without food. The matured worms should then be picked up and kept in the spinning baskets.

One layer of dry leaves, straw or grass, wood shavings or crumpled paper, etc., is put in the basket. Over the layer about 100 worms are placed and again another layer of spinning medium is put over the worms. One basket of the diameter and depth of about 1½ feet and one foot respectively can accommodate about 500 worms. The worms begin to spin at night. The cocoons are picked up after 5 days in summer and eight days in winter and they are spread in one layer over a tray for the emergence of the moths. The worms can spin in deal wood boxes and even on trays. An average cocoon is 1½ inch long and 3/4 inch in diameter. The moths begin to come out on the eighteenth day in summer. The duration in winter is about 35 to 40 days. The female has bigger and thicker body. But the males are more active.

In the afternoon the moths are collected and 250 of them are kept in one basket with a lid over it. They would pair at night. Next morning the paired worms are kept in a separate basket. The same afternoon, the males are forcibly separated and thrown away. The fertilised females are kept in a basket for laying eggs. The females are thrown away next morning and the eggs are scraped off with a stick or with the fingers. Cocoons are very much attacked by enemies and for protection they should be kept in closed baskets hung from a string.

Rearing of Tassar (Anthores Mytritta) Worms.—The life cycle of the worm is divided into four parts.

The egg is the primary stage in the existence of silk worm life. On the 7th or 8th day after oviposition, the worms come out of eggs. Then they are put on the tree where they begin to eat. The worms feed on the tree, grow and mature in about 35 to 55 days according to season.

From July to October Tassar moths emerge out of seed cocoons on the 15th to 25th day. The seed cocoons harvested after October-November crop are pierced by moths. After a long period of 5 to 6 months one fertilized female tassar moth lays 200 eggs on average.

Tassar worms are generally attacked by the diseases like flachere and grasseri. After they fall victim to these diseases, they fall down or hang by their hind legs.

Trachina fly, hornet, warp, ants, kites and rats kill and eat the worms. There is no particular organisation for rearing. Rearing is not congregated in a region or division. The rearing is done by indigenous people spread all over the district.

A better organisation for rearing is indicated. Several grainage station should be established under the Research station and from these grainages, disease-free eggs should be distributed. The rearers should be given proper prices. Training centres should be started to train personnel and trained candidates may be given a cash help to start and stick to rearing.

There are acute marketing difficulties regarding tassar cocoons. There is no arrangement for the poor rearers to sell their cocoons at fixed rates. They easily become victims in the hands of middle men due to poverty and sell at low prices.

As a remedy, Government cocoon centres should be started which may ensure stability of price. Co-operative societies for rearers may be opened. State protection for the poor artisans is so needed that they may not fall prey to the oppressing hands of the *Mahajans*.

There are severe difficulties in reeling of cocoons and spinning its waste. Before actual reeling the tassar cocoons are required to be boiled out freely so that the filaments may come out freely. The tassar cocoons are very hard. It takes a long time to dissolve the hard crust of cocoons and make the filaments easily reelable. This is done by reelers at home. The process is very lengthy and tedious. They do it by boiling the cocoons. It is generally done in the oven of their cooking *chula*. It takes about 10 days for proper boiling of cocoons. Then the filaments are wound on the *Natwa*. It takes a long time to reel a *chittak* of thread. The production is crude and very low. Spinning is done by means of spindles of *Dhera* which takes long time to spin a seer of thread.

To remove these difficulties proper training centres should be started to impart technical knowledge of different sections. For want of factory for reeling and spinning the procurement of reeled and spun tassar yarn is a difficult task. The purchaser has to move door to door for purchasing the yarn. The Mahajans bargain and take the advantage of the market. Starting of reeling factory equipped with modern Reeling-*cum*-Twisting machines and spinning factory may help in overcoming the difficulties which purchasers have to face.

Marketing process of silk goods may be organised for controlling the exploitation by middlemen engaged in this business for which an opening of a sale emporium may be suggested.

Bhagalpur district has a vital potentiality of silk which should be handled very carefully and cautiously. Its proper exploitation may help much in earning foreign exchange which is so important for an under-developed country like India.

Building Industry

The incidence of urbanisation in Bhagalpur district has been remarkable. Bhagalpur, Sultanganj, Banka and Colgong have expanded enormously and other townships are coming up. The more availability of cement and steel have led to a change in the pattern of the houses. Instead of mud and brick houses more of reinforced brick and reinforced concrete houses are being built. There has been a great expansion of Government offices at the District and Subdivisional Headquarters and a number of institutions have now been located in Bhagalpur. Bhagalpur has now been made the Headquarters of a University. All this has led to a sizeable population being engaged in what may be loosely described as Building Industry.

This Building Industry has spread to many of the rural areas as well. The location of the block headquarters at important villages has led to the construction of a number of pucca houses for Block Development Office and residential houses. The well-to-do villagers have also come to appreciate better houses to live in and R. B. and R. C. houses with modern comforts are coming up in many villages.

The Building Industry has kept engaged people in different types of work. Broadly speaking they are brick layers, carters, truck owners and drivers, masons, carpenters, etc. Stockists of coal, bricks, cement, lime, iron, rods, etc., have cropped up in the urban areas. It is understood that there are now 21 brick kilns in the town of Bhagalpur alone, out of which 8 are at Mohallas Manbharra, 4 at Nathnagar, 4 at Kanori Bazar, 3 at Laloochak and 2 at Khanjarpur. Besides, there are brick kilns at Sultanganj, Banka, Colgong and other townships. The craze for brick-built houses in the rural areas has led to a very large number of brick kilns in rural areas. On a rough estimate more than 600 persons are engaged at the brick kilns of Bhagalpur alone.*

It may be mentioned here that after the earthquake of 1934 there was a craze for building light structures and attempt was made to manufacture Raniganj tiles near Champanagar. But as mentioned before as more cement and steel rods were available people took to brick, cement and steel for building stronger houses and Raniganj tiles fell into disuse. Similarly the manufacture of country tiles (*Khapra*) in the urban areas has considerably declined

*The 1951 Census figure of 1,509 males and 465 females in this Trade is an under-estimate.

because of the increase in demand for houses of cement and steel. Corrugated sheets and Asbestos sheets are also largely used for roofing.

Building Industry will receive a further encouragement now that schemes for housing the lower income group and small income group have been sponsored by the Government. The State is giving loans to further such schemes. To cope with the demand for more bricks loans are being given to the brick kilns and better arrangement for coal, cement and steel are being made.

Biri Industry

Biri industry keeps occupied more than two thousand persons most of whom are biri manufacturers (about two thousand approximately). There will also be a couple of hundreds of men engaged as Driers, Packers and Tobacco Cleaners. It is peculiar that both the ingredients of the outer leaf and the tobacco are imported from outside. There are a few dealers hailing from Gujrat who deal in export of Biri. There is also a very large consumption of biri within the district. The Minimum Wages Act is not strictly enforced so far as the wages are concerned.

Miscellaneous

Among industries other than indicated earlier, mention may be made of Oil Mills (12), Soap Manufacturing Units (6), Engineering Establishments (7), Gur and Khandsari (8), Hume Pipe Manufacture (1), Printing Press (9), Hosiery Mill (1), Flour Mills (42), Dairy Farm (2). The following is a list of industries established or developed within the last five years with the help of Government :—

Printing Press (4), Gur and Khandsari (2), Leather Industries (6), Carpentry (5), Poultry Farm (4), Small Dairy (7), Brick kiln (4), Dyeing and Printing (2), Ceramic (1), Foundry (3), Blacksmithy (3), Weaving Handloom (7), Brass Metal (1), Motor Parts repair (1), Colour Industries (2), Engineering (1), and Fabricating (10). Some of these industries are typical cottage industries. Handloom weaving is another cottage industry which gives occupation to a few hundreds of families. There are a few other small cottage industries like furniture manufacture, turning out ordinary pottery goods, making of leaf plates, etc. Bhagalpur district supported the Bengal Potteries of Calcutta for a pretty long time with the basic material of excellent clay from Patharghatta and the neighbourhood in Colgong P.-S. Owing to protracted litigation the quarrying of the clay has been stopped.

There are no particular industrial arts but it may be mentioned that the dyeing and printing of Bhagalpur silk *sarees* manufactured, dyed and printed in Bhagalpur district and other types of silk lengths transcend purely utility considerations.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Silk.—Bhagalpur is known for its silk industries and attempts are being made in this regard to develop this industry. The long felt desire of the people will be fulfilled by a spun silk mill at Bhagalpur which will be started during the Third Five-Year Plan period. This Mill will supply the spun silk yarns to the Mills of this area.

Besides, there is a proposal to instal one sizing plant which has already been purchased and it is hoped that due attention will be paid to instal the plant in near future which will be helpful for weavers who are being supplied power looms and also for the silk mill owners of this place.

Eri Supply station.—One Eri seed supply station is going to be started in Bhagalpur. Site has already been selected at two places one near Bhagalpur Central Jail and the other near Kabirpur but it has not been finalised as yet. Attempts are being made to acquire the land before the close of this financial year 1961-62

Marketing Facilities.—For providing marketing facilities of the products of handicrafts, there is proposal to start one handicrafts emporium in Bhagalpur as early as possible.

The above mentioned schemes are expected to be executed in near future in the public sector. Besides, in the private sector one silicate factory is likely to be started soon in Colgong area.

So far as the question of industrial possibility is concerned the following industries stand a good chance in this district.

Ceramic Industries.—China clay of Patharghatta, Colgong and Samukhia, Banka is best suited for ceramic industries. Cheap labour and transport facilities are also available. Hence a ceramic factory can be started near Colgong.

Dairy Farms.—One big dairy could be started in North Bhagalpur. There is a good prospect in this respect.

Bone Mills.—One small bone mill could be started conveniently in Bhagalpur. Bones are available in abundance here and are transported to Calcutta in each month. If these bones can be used locally, it will be of great help to the local people.

Fertiliser made out of bones will be of benefit to agriculture. There is a proposal to give subsidy to bone mill products provided the fertiliser produced by the bone mills are marketed through the Co-operative Department.

There are also good prospects for sponsoring a concern for manufacturing nuts and bolts, wire drawing plants and wire nail making units.

The river front is now hardly used for transport of manufactured goods. This is because steamers and scheduled crafts do not ply now by the Ganga touching Bhagalpur. The Steam Navigation and B.I.S. N. Companies have closed down their steamer services a few years back.

A small provision was made in the First Five-Year Plan. This period was really for preparation. Considerable provision, however, was made in the Second Five-Year Plan and since 1957 the development of small scale industries has been taken up in right earnest. In 1957 an Industries Office was created on district level in Bhagalpur with a view to execute the programmes of cottage, small scale, khadi and village industries. The District Industries Officer has been given a staff and he has to take the following measures :—

(*i*) To impart training to the artisans and their wards in improved technique and to settle them in trade.

(*ii*) To impart training of highly skilled nature in order to produce technical personnel.

(*iii*) To extend credit facilities to the needy and prospective industrialists.

(*iv*) To help industrialists in procurement of raw materials.

(*v*) To provide technical advice where needed.

(*vi*) To give protection to small industries against heavy industries by means of stores purchase preference rules.

(*vii*) To organise exhibitions in order to acquaint the artisans with the modern development of industries.

(*viii*) To provide marketing facilities to the artisans.

A number of Training-*cum*-Production Centres have been started where the trainees are given monthly stipends. Such centres started are Wool weaving (1), Carpentry (5), Tailoring and

Cutting (5), Knitting and Embroidery (1), Durrie weaving (1), Linseed Fibre (1), Blacksmithy and Tinsmithy (2), Cotton weaving (1), Dyeing and Printing (1), and Leather (1).

Besides the T.C.P. Centres a number of model schemes have been taken up by the Industries Department for purpose of imparting training in different trades. The Blacksmithy Centre in Bhagalpur has been functioning since April, 1958 and imparting training for one year and is particularly meant for trainees of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Government Silk Institute at Nathnagar gives training in sericulture up to diploma standard. A Civil School of Engineering and Leela Dip Narain Industrial Training Institute at Bhagalpur give training up to diploma and certificate course in different trades of engineering. A Government Aluminium Wares Factory located at Bhagalpur has an installed capacity for 300 lbs. of aluminium utensils per day. It has started functioning since August, 1959 but is facing difficulties for raw materials. A Government Dye House has been started at Nathnagar to provide facilities to the weavers at Nathnagar and Champanagar in getting their yarns dyed at a reasonable fixed rate. A Fruit Preservation Scheme under the supervision of Fruit Preservation Officer, Agriculture College, Sabour is being financed by the Industries Department and has been producing jelly and syrups. A Linseed Fibre Research Scheme sponsored by Dr. Richaria, an Ex-Principal of Bihar Agriculture College, Sabour is still at research stage. Dr. Richaria has now left the State. Dr. Richaria had expected that various types of articles like cloth, toys, paper, durries, etc., could be made out of linseed straw after converting it into fibre. He had obtained satisfactory preliminary results. There are four sub-stations of this research scheme in different parts of Bihar controlled by the District Industries Officer, Bhagalpur.

There are six Eri Demonstration Centres at Birpur, Naugachia, Gopalpur, Pirpainty, Sabour and Akbarnagar. Disease-free layings are distributed among the villagers free of cost and cocoons are purchased from rearers on cash payment by the Government Silk Institute, Nathnagar. At Katoria a Tassar Seed Supply sub-station has been started to supply disease-free layings of tassar to the rearers.

The State Government has sanctioned a scheme of introducing 150 powerlooms in order to encourage the weavers concentrated at Nathnagar and Champanagar. Each loanee of powerloom will be given an advance of Rs. 1,000 as working capital repayable in five annual instalments.

Many of the schemes mentioned above are still at their initial stage and it is not expected that much will be achieved within a short time.

Regarding credit facility to needy and prospective entrepreneurs steps have been taken by the State Government.

Before the introduction of State Aid to Industries Act, 1956 very few persons were benefited under Bihar and Orissa State Aid to Industries Act, rather it may be said that benefit availed by them was negligible. In order to extend credit facilities to a large number of entrepreneurs the aforesaid Act was simplified in the year 1956. Since the introduction of the Bihar State Aid to Industries Act a large number of entrepreneurs have been advanced industrial loans and/or machineries under the hire purchase system. A sum of Rs. 1,19,700 has been advanced cash loan to 71 individuals including four industrial co-operative societies on district level. Besides, a sum of Rs. 2,56,500 has been advanced from the State headquarters to 21 entrepreneurs in shape of cash and hire purchase terms. Over and above this, 100 sewing machines have been distributed in 10 C.D. Blocks at the rate of 10 sewing machines in in each C.D. Block on hire purchase system of loans repayable in five equated annual instalments.

In most cases loans advanced have been utilised properly and in those cases where loans have not been utilised properly steps are being taken to pursue the utilisation of loan and/or to terminate and realise the loaned amount under the terms of agreement.

ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIALISTS IN PROCURING RAW MATERIALS

In this respect it may be mentioned here that names of industrialists are recommended from this office to the Directorate for the issue of essentiality certificates in order to enable them to import the raw materials. Besides this, names of those units which use soda ash and caustic soda for the manufacturing of silicates and soaps, are recommended to supply them these raw materials at controlled rate. Names of units using different types of coals in their factories are also recommended for obtaining coal at controlled rate. Registered fabricators are supplied steel and iron at controlled rate from the iron and steel stockists on the recommendation of this office.

PROTECTION TO SMALL INDUSTRIES AGAINST HEAVY INDUSTRIES

Small Industries are given protection against heavy industries by way of their registration and marketing under stores purchase preference rules. The products of registered small-scale industries are given quality preference and 12 per cent price preference to the products of heavy industries in case their products are purchased by any Government departments. On district level the District Industries Officer has been included in the purchase committees formed in different departments of the Government functioning at the district level to safeguard the interests of the small-

scale industries. So far 12 small industries have been registered under stores purchase preference rule and the names of 7 such small industries have been recommended from this office for registration.

Technical Advice.—There are a large number of model schemes for small-scale industries which are supplied to the prospective entrepreneurs when needed. Sometimes their cases are referred to State Headquarters and Director, Small Scale Service Institute, Patna, for technical guidance.

Khadi and Village Industries.—It will not be out of place to mention here that under Khadi and Village Industries 113 Co-operative societies are functioning in this district and out of which 63 have been assisted financially by the Bihar Khadi and Village Industries Board. Most of them are working smoothly.

Export of Tassar Silk.—In these days of acute dollar shortage in our country, it will not be out of place to mention here that due to efforts of this department at Bhagalpur, Tassar Silk products and exporters have been able to export tassar cloth to U.S.A. amounting to Rs. 9,20,840 in 1958-59 and Rs. 12,16,180 up to February, 1959-60.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS

Bhagalpur district is not very well industrialised. The employers have not got very effective organisations. There are, however, two such organisations, one at Bhagalpur and the other at Naugachia. The Eastern Chamber of Commerce with headquarters at Bhagalpur claims to represent the employers in cloth and silk industry and other kinds of commercial and industrial interests. The Cloth Merchants Association with headquarters at Naugachia is concerned about the interests of the cloth dealers of Naugachia. Many of the big merchants of Bhagalpur district are members of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce with headquarters at Patna. It is rather peculiar that Bhagalpur with a very large number of employers should not have a well organised employers' organisation.

Regarding Labour organisations, there are quite a number of them. They are all rather small organisations and it is rather unfortunate that generally it is taken that they are more conscious of their rights than their obligations. Some of these labour organisations make themselves occasionally felt by threatening strikes complete or partial. Some of these organisations are reported to have a very small membership. Some of these labour organisations are—

(1) Bhagalpur Silk Mills Karmachari Sangh, (2) Bhagalpur Water Workers' Union, (3) Bhagalpur Electric Supply Workers' Union, (4) Bhagalpur Press Employers' Union, (5) Khadya Utpadan Mills Karmachari Sangh, Bhagalpur,

(6) Bhagalpur Municipal Employees' Union, (7) Zila Biri Mazdoor Union, Bhagalpur, (8) Nagar Safai Mazdoor Sangh, Bhagalpur, (9) Cinema Workers' Union, Bhagalpur, (10) Motor Karmachari Sangh, Bhagalpur, (11) Bhagalpur Rickshaw Drivers' Union.

In the sphere of labour welfare, the Labour Department of the State Government actively encouraged the organisations of the employees and employers to meet in cases of any dispute. Voluntary Labour Welfare Centres as the joint efforts of the employees and the employers have been started at Bhagalpur (Jogsar) and at Sultanganj. The former biri workers engaged in silk factories are the beneficiaries of the Labour Welfare Centre at Bhagalpur while the workers in rice and oil mills and the Sultanganj distillery are the beneficiaries at Sultanganj.

The Labour Department of the State Government has sponsored "B" type Labour Welfare Centre at Bhagalpur. The Employees' State Insurance Act is expected to be extended to Bhagalpur shortly. At present the Provident Fund Act is in operation covering all the employees of the factories having 20 and more workers. With the extension of the Employees' State Insurance Act it is expected that there will be an Employees' State Insurance Hospital with a staff of qualified doctors which will confer great benefit to the workers. Simultaneously there will be a full-fledged Labour Welfare Centre with the different branches. The subject of Industrial Labour Welfare has been covered elsewhere.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

INDIGENOUS BANKING

The average cultivator or the labourer in the past could not possibly accumulate any savings and there was hardly any scope for banking the savings. But banks were necessary to help them with credit facilities to tide over their difficulties either for the purchase of seeds or the purchase of a pair of plough-bullocks or meeting any social obligation like marriage or *sradh* in the family. For such purposes the village *Mahajan* or *Sahukar* or the the village money-lender was always available. In the villages rarely a man followed exclusively the profession of a money-lender. He was normally a big cultivator, the zamindar or the village grocer. His rate of interest would be very high but he would vary it with his intimate knowledge of the financial resources of the borrower. The credit facility had the advantage of being quickly accessible without any red-tape and the security often consisted in the social odium which would follow from non-payment. Very often a part of the capital will be deducted as advance interest. This was the picture of indigenous banking in the rural areas which has persisted to some extent even to present times.

In the urban areas, however, there were *gaddis*, of important commercial houses. They could advance credit and also take deposits. In the past *hundis* or credit notes were the usual machinery through which big transactions took place. The *hundis* of well established Indian and European business firms of different places used to be given full credit at Bhagalpur. The Indigo Planters also used to advance loans and credit savings. The riverine trade of Bhagalpur had contacts from Allahabad to Calcutta and Dacca and *hundis* of firms in places like Allahabad, Baranasi, Patna, Monghyr, Calcutta and Dacca were credited for. Banks in the present sense came in later. Hunter's description in his Statistical Account* gives us the picture that existed in the middle and third quarter of the nineteenth century. It has to be observed that from the very beginning, the British administration had followed the tradition of Mughal and Muslim rule that it is an obligation of the State to help the *raiyats* with credit facilities. Many of the zamindars also felt as a social obligation that they should help the *raiyats* with credit facilities but in the past the State and the Zamindars usually helped when there was distress and not for other purposes. Hunter mentions that the merchants and landed proprietors in Bhagalpur employed capital either in

**A Statistical Account of Bhagalpur* (1877), PP. 191-192.

trade or manufacturing goods but rarely in improving the land. The largest accumulations were believed to be in the hands of the trading community at a few commercial centres, such as Bhagalpur and Colgong. The rate of interest in petty loans where the borrower pledged some articles, such as ornaments or household, was half an anna in the rupee per mensem, or thirty-seven and a half per cent per annum. In large transactions, money or loan was raised by mortgaging movable or on immovable properties. The rate of interest varied from thirty-seven and a half to seventy-five per cent per annum. If those loans ran, as they often did, over a number of years, the former rate of interest remained the same. In the same class of transaction, with a lien upon the crops, the amount so advanced was recovered in all kind at the rate current in the market. There were some large banking establishments in the town of Bhagalpur, but in the interior of the district loans were chiefly given by village shopkeepers or *mahajans*, who apart from being grocers were also money-landers. The prospect of a good return in Indigo also prompted the Europeans to invest money in Bhagalpur district. Besides many people belonging to Calcutta and other upcountry towns had business interest in the district.

This description of banking was prevalent even at the time of the publication of the last District Gazettoer of Bhagalpur (1911). It mentions that the Marwaris, Agarwalas, and Banias, all were engaged either in trade, banking or money lending. They eventually acquired large estates which came into their hands at first on mortgages and finally as their sole property by purchasing at sales in execution of their own decrees against the improvement or unwary zamindar who they had enmeshed.

GENERAL CREDIT FACILITIES, INDEBTEDNESS AND MONEY-LENDERS

General credit facilities available in the district comprise the professional money-lenders, agriculturist money-lenders, richer relatives, traders, co-operatives, landlords and lastly the State. There also may be some other particular sources of credit facilities which may generally be grouped under the heading of 'Others'. There has not been any critical survey as to the incidence of indebtedness, rural and urban in Bhagalpur district. Generally it may, however, be said that excepting a small percentage of indebtedness is almost a normal feature in the economy of the average family of the common man. The middle classes which form the back-bone of the society are the hardest hit in the present set-up and a large percentage of them is running into the incidence of indebtedness quickly. The average normal cultivator unless he is a big cultivator with some monetary legacy has also a certain amount of indebtedness. The small cultivators and the agricultural

labourer classes are also usually indebted to certain extent. The professional classes both in the rural and urban areas show a peculiar picture. Some of them are quite affluent but the average professional class is probably just on the margin. After the abolition of the zamindari the ex-landlords who owned extensive zamindari are not indebted to any appreciable extent but the class of small zamindars have not yet been able to adjust themselves and are getting into indebtedness. Excepting a few large families of ex-landlords, Bhagalpur district has a very large number of small ex-landlords and owing to delays in receiving compensation and a certain amount of allergy to quickly adjust to the changed circumstances many of them are now indebted. The business men, however, have prospered as a class since the Second Great War and the general impression is that the average business man is not suffering from any load of indebtedness. The analysis of indebtedness in Monghyr district that has been dealt in the text on 'Economic Trends' in the revised District Gazetteer of Monghyr applies for Bhagalpur district as well.

The incidence of indebtedness in Bhagalpur district as in Monghyr district is largely inter-mixed with the questionable traditional conception of social obligations. The expenditure on purchase of clothing, shoes, etc., and particularly on marriage and other ceremonies are considered as important items in the family budget. It cannot be said that the family budget of the average man cannot brook any pruning. There is far too much of lop-sided expenditure in the average family at the moment. Marriage, other social ceremonies, funeral expenses, litigation, etc., take away much more from the family budget of an ordinary man. The traditional joint family system is also usually taken to be another source of general indebtedness owing to the drones in the family and the accumulated legacy of debts. In the present Welfare State the incidence of taxation has got to go on increasing and there will be more of rise in expenditure over fooding, clothing, educational and medical expenses, etc. The State is bound to impose more and more taxes to provide for the development projects and to firmly set up a socialistic State. Unless the structure of the family budget is radically changed there may be much more of indebtedness in the district. But in spite of this picture of indebtedness there is a margin of savings and that margin has got to be strengthened. That margin may not be available in the average cultivator. In a planned economy, all sectors, the Government, the Companies, the individuals should save to the utmost out of their current incomes, and invest in productive assets. This is the only way by which a country can have a self-generating economy with increased per capita income and increased production. As has been said each sector has to strive to increase its marginal rate of saving or propensity to save. The economy would cease to grow if this is not done. We have

not got sufficient data to calculate the annual average of Bhagalpur district's or even Bihar's savings in the different sectors. But from the rapid increase in the investment in house-properties and ornaments that we see in Bhagalpur we may conclude that in spite of the general indebtedness of the average common man, there is a fair margin of savings. There has also been an increase in Bank deposits and Life Insurance business and shares of Companies and Government securities.

Regarding usury it may be said that this has been controlled to some extent by legislation but not totally. It is, however, correct to think that the recent changes in the legislation and the provision of more credit facilities have had their contribution and the Afghan-money lenders who used to visit the villages and the towns every winter have not been very prominent in the last one decade or so. The Money-lenders Act which will be discussed later has fixed the ceiling of interest but it is unfortunately true that the ceiling is not always implemented by both the parties.

A study in Monghyr district gives the following picture of the credit agencies and the proportion of borrowing from each agency to the total borrowings of cultivation and this has an application to Bhagalpur district as well.

The figures are as follows:—

Credit Agency.	Proportion of borrowing from each agency to the total borrowings of cultivation.
	Per cent.
Government	3.3
Co-operatives	3.1
Relatives	14.2
Agriculturist money-lenders	24.9
Professional money-lenders	44.8
Traders and Commission Agents	5.6
Landlords	1.5
Commercial Banks	0.9
Others	1.8
Total	100.0

Of all the credit agencies mentioned in the above table, the age-old institution of money-lenders has traditionally been the main agency meeting the credit requirements of the rural sector of our economy in the past. It continues to enjoy even to-day, more or less, the same predominant position in the field in spite of vigorous efforts by Government to develop and enlarge alternative sources

of credit and to control and regulate the business activities of money-lenders by vigorous legislative measures. The facts regarding the total borrowings of cultivators financed by non-institutional or private agencies of which the most important are money-lenders who account for nearly 70 per cent have been discussed earlier. In contrast to this, "the combined contribution of Government and the co-operatives was about 6 per cent of the total (each accounting for about three per cent). As for commercial banks, one per cent represented the insignificant part played by them in the direct financing of the cultivator."* The data collected by the Survey of the All-India Rural Credit reveal that borrowing from private agencies (other than commercial banks) bears a rate of interest of 25 per cent or more but is as high as 70 per cent in Orissa, 49 per cent in Tripura, 40 per cent in West Bengal, 29 per cent in Uttar Pradesh and 27 per cent in Bihar. Although Co-operative movement has registered good progress in Bhagalpur district, it has not significantly affected the predominant position of money-lenders.

Such a predominant position of the money-lenders would have meant no harm to our rural economy had they refrained from indulging in unhealthy practices. The Agricultural Finance Committee appointed by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Sri D. R. Gadgil, in its report of 1945 noted (Page 59), "While it is true that the money-lender is the most important constituent of the agricultural credit machinery of the country, it is not possible to justify many of his practices and the charges he makes for his services. Very often these charges are out of all proportion the risk involved in the business and constitute only exploitation of the helplessness, ignorance and necessity of the borrower. Nor is the agricultural economy of the country in a position to bear the strain of his extortion. The credit dispensed by him instead of contributing to the agricultural prosperity of the country serves as a serious drag on it". But the money-lender continues because he offers the credit quickly and without the usual formalities which any co-operative credit agency or Government agency would insist.

To safeguard the interest of the borrowers the Bihar Money-lenders Act, 1938, is in force and which to some extent checks the rising tendency of interest.

**All India Rural Credit Survey Report*, page 167.

The following table will show the Annual Statement on the Working of the Bihar Money-Lenders Act, for the district of Bhagalpur from the year 1954-55 to 1960-61

Year.	Number of licensed Money-leaders.							
	At the beginning of the year.		Who were registered for the first time during the year.		Whose licenses were renewed during the year.		Whose licenses were cancelled during the year.	
	Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1954-55	536	831	91	165	15	34	..	..
1955-56	595	984	93	223	9	50	..	..
1956-57	661	1,138	92	126	28	47	..	
1957-58	710	1,160	109	148	32	46	..	..
1958-59	695	1,210	68	233	36	63	..	
1959-60	662	1,414	104	189	38	60	..	..
1960-61	720	1,456	95	234	27	55	..	..

Year.	Number of licensed Money-Lenders. Whose five-year terms of licenses expired during the year.		At the close of the year.		The kind of security generally demanded by the money-lenders, e.g. landed property Jwelleries, etc.	Amount of loan advanced during the year. With security.		Without security.	
	Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.		Urban.	Rural.	Urban.	Rural.
1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1954-55	47	66	595	984	Generally landed property.	1,12,033	25,78,955	..	—
1955-56	36	119	661	1,138	Ditto	1,22,120	17,30,724	..	3,040
1956-57	71	131	710	1,180	Ditto	..	1,50,789	..	11,312
1957-58	156	164	695	1,210	Ditto	11,10,677	5,71,010	..	13,270
1958-59	131	92	662	1,414	Ditto	12,95,244	21,10,983	..	1,490
1959-60	84	207	720	1,456	Ditto	6,04,854	23,24,058	..	4,982
1960-61	89	244	753	1,501	Ditto	18,46,732	17,72,390	..	1,106

There are some old families like Dhandhanias, etc., in the district who deal in the money-lending business.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

There are no joint stock companies registered under the Indian Companies public), etc.

As regards private limited companies, the details are given below:—

Name of Company.	Principal object.	Capital.				
		Class of shares.	Authorised (Total only).	Paid up (break up should be given).	Bonus issued included in column nine.	Secured and un-secured loans and debentures.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bihar Mining and Industries (Private), Limited.	Business of mica mining.	Ordinary	5,00,000	2,30,000	Nil	Secured loans Rs. 60,000, unsecured loans Rs. 6,000.
Bihar Prestressing (Private), Limited.	Construction of general nature.	Equity	10,00,000	15,250	Nil	Nil
Shree Vastralaya (Private), Limited.	Wholesale dealers in commodities other than food stuff, general merchants and commission agents, etc.	Equity ..	3,00,000	..	Nil	Nil
Bhartiya Vastu Bhandar (Private) Limited.	Wholesale dealers in commodities other than food stuff, general merchants and commission agents.	Equity ..	1,00,000	5,200	Nil	Unsecured loans Rs. 8,220.
Tatanagar Engineering and Foundry (Private), Limited.	Business of exports and imports, etc.	Ordinary	2,00,000	14,500	Nil	Nil
Umesh Transport (Private), Limited.	Transport services by road especially lorry and motor services.	Equity ..	1,00,000	1,00,000	Nil	Unsecured loans Rs. 45,500.
Thakur Motor Services (Private), Limited.	Transport services by road especially lorry and motor services.	Equity ..	1,00,000	500	Nil	Unsecured loans Rs. 45,177.
Amrit Mandal and Company (Private), Limited.	Advertisement, Contractors and Advisers.	Equity ..	10,00,000	54,000	Nil	Unsecured loans Rs. 19,899.

AND LIMITED COMPANIES.

Act in Bhagalpur district except a few limited companies (private and

Situation of the registered office.	Profit before taxation/ loss.	Reserves (excluding taxation reserves).	Date of registration.	Closing date of annual accounts from which date in columns 9 and 10 have been taken.	Industrie classification.
8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs.	Rs.			
Adampur, District Bhagalpur.	Nil	Nil	18th July 1947	31st March 1959 ..	1.6
7, Patel Babu Road, Bhagalpur.	Nil	Nil	7th January 1961	New Company ..	5.09
Club. Market, Bhagalpur	Nil	Nil	15th September 1959.	Company has not filed any document.	6.01
D. N. Singh Ghat Road, Bhagalpur-2.	Nil	Nil	4th February 1955.	31st October 1959	6.01
"Indu Sadan" Manik Sarkar Road, Bhagalpur.	Nil	Nil	6th December 1958.	31st December 1959	6.01
At and District Bhagalpur	Nil	Nil	16th December 1944.	31st March 1960 ..	7.00
At and District Bhagalpur	Nil	Nil	1st June 1945	Company has not filed any document since long.	7.00
3, East Gurhatta Road, Mirjanhat, Bhagalpur.	Nil	Nil	2nd January 1958.	30th June 1960 ..	8.5

There were eight private limited companies operating in the district of Bhagalpur during 1961. Their classification shows that (*i*) two companies were in the group of wholesale dealers in the commodities other than food stuff, general merchants and commission agents, etc., (*ii*) two in the transport group, (*iii*) one in mica mining group, (*iv*) one in construction of general nature, (*v*) one in business of exports and imports and (*vi*) one in advertisement, contractors and agents group.

The table given below gives the detailed Information regarding the Public Limited Companies.

Name of the company.	Principal object.	Capital.					Situation of registered offices.	Profit before taxation loss.	Reserves (excluding taxation reserves).	Date of registration.	Closing date of annual accounts from which date in columns 9 and 10 have been taken.	Industrial classification.
		Class of shares.	Authorised (Total only).	Paid up (break up should be given).	Bonus issue included in column 9.	Secured and unsecured loans and debentures.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.			
The Monghyr Electric Supply Company, Limited.	Business of electric construction.	Equity	..	1,18,010	Nil	Unsecured loans Rs. 3,78 934.	Sujaganj, Bhagalpur.	..	6,416	1st April 1936.	31st March 1958	5.1
		Preference total.	7,00,000	78.66,420								
				4,21 430								
Ramrikdas Properties, Limited.	Land and State Companies.	Equity	5,00,000	19,039	..	..	Bakrar Kothi, P.O. Mathura-Sahebganj, Bhagalpur.	..	1,700	25th May 1944.	30th September 1959.	6.2

Public limited companies, other than joint stock banks and investment trusts numbered two in the district in 1961. They were engaged in some form of productive activity such as trading, construction, etc.

Besides, there are other private and public limited companies like the Bihar Agents (Private), Limited, Eastern Silk Manufacturing Company (Private), Limited, Uma Shankar Mills (Private), Limited, Shew Mills Company (Private), Limited, Shree Krishna (Private). Limited, New General Agents (Private), Limited, Shri Shiva Gouri Mills (Private), Limited, Shri Bhagwati Hosiery Mills (Private), Limited and the United Press.

Of all these Private Limited Companies which have their registered offices at Calcutta—

(*i*) six are in the manufacturing group, viz., (*a*) Eastern Silk Manufacturing Company (Private), Limited, (*b*) Uma Shankar Mills (Private), Ltd., (*c*) Shew Mills Co. (Private), Ltd., (*d*) Shiva Gouri Mills (Private), Ltd., (*e*) Bhagwati Hosiery Mills (Private), Ltd., and (*f*) Shree Krishna (Private), Ltd. ; and

(*ii*) two in wholesale dealing of cloth group, viz., (*a*) Bihar Agents (Private), Ltd., and (*b*) New General Agents (Private), Ltd.

The distribution of the six companies in the manufacturing group is given below:—

(1) Oil and flour	3
(2) Silk	1
(3) Hosiery	1
(4) Bucket, etc.	1
	6

The three companies manufacturing oil and flour are Uma Shankar Mills (Private), Ltd., Shew Mills (Private). Ltd., and Shiva Gouri Mills (Private). Ltd. Eastern Silk Manufacturing Company (Private), Ltd., manufactures silk. Bhagwati Hosiery Mills (Private), Ltd., turn out hosiery and Srikrishna (Private), Ltd., manufactures buckets, etc.

The only public limited company is the United Press which has its registered office at Patna and its branch office is at Bhagalpur. From general enquiry it was understood that a part of the capital in most of these companies was raised in Bhagalpur district

Co-operative Credit Societies and Banks

In Bhagalpur district till 4th of May, 1960, there were two Central Co-operative Banks—Bhagalpur and Banka—but with the recommendation of Reserve Bank of India both these banks amalgamated into one with its head office at Bhagalpur known as Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd. At Banka there is now a branch of Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank. Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., was registered on the 5th May, 1960. The area of operation of both these banks extends to their respective subdivisions. But as Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank is the head office, the area of operation extends throughout the district.

The main activity of the Central Co-operative Bank is to provide agricultural finance to their affiliated co-operative societies which in their turn finance their agriculturist members as short term and medium term loan for productive purposes. Short term loans are advanced to agriculturist members to meet their current production needs such as seeds, manures, etc. These loans are made available to them at short notice and are repaid within nine to twelve months and in exceptional cases like cultivation of sugarcane within fifteen months. Medium term loans are advanced for purchase of live-stock, agricultural implements, etc., for a period of three to five years. The rate of interest on all kinds of loans was 6½ per cent per annum from the ultimate borrower, i. e., the cultivators but from January, 1961 it has been raised to 7½ per cent. Loans are advanced on the security of the landed properties of the members but such securities are not required for loans below Rs. 200.00. Personal securities are taken in all cases. Loans are also available from co-operative societies to its non-agriculturist members, such as artisan up to Rs. 100.00 as working capital. In every exceptional cases loans up to and exceeding Rs. 1,000.00 are advanced on the prior approval of the Circle Assistant Registrar.

The following figures will show the number, affiliated anp non-affiliated of different types of Co-operative Societies and Banks in the district :—

Types of Societies.	Number.	Affiliated.	Non-affiliated.
Bhagalpur Circle.			
1. Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Bhagalpur ..	1	..	..
2. Primary and Multipurpose Co-operative Societies and Credit Co-operative Societies.	274	159	115

Types of Societies.	Number.	Affiliated.	Non-affiliated.
BHAGALPUR CIRCLE.			
3. Consumers, Co-operative Stores	14	2	12
4. Teachers' Co-operative Societies	14	Nil	14
5. *Vikas Mandal* and *Vyapar Mandal* Societies ..	3	2	1
6. Fishermen's Co-operative Societies	3	3	Nil.
7. Weavers' Co-operative Societies	69	57	12
8. Non-Agricultural Credit Societies	1	Nil	1
9. Large-size Societies	6	6	Nil.
10. Oilmen Co-operative Societies	34	22	12
11. Industrial Societies	4	4	Nil.
12. *Gramodyog* Societies	4	3	1
13. Housing Societies	1	Nil	1
14. *Khadi Rachnatmak* Co-operative Societies ..	4	2	2
15. Dyeing and Printing Co-operative Societies ..	1	Nil	1
16. Joint Farming	2	2	Nil.
17. Harijan Co-operative Societies	3	1	2
18. Milk Unions	1	1	Nil.
19. Milk Co-operative Societies	5	1	4
20. Urban and other Societies	60	26	34
BANKA CIRCLE.			
1. Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Branch Banka	1	1	Nil.
2. Multipurpose Co-operative Societies, Ltd. ..	412	386	26
3. Credit Co-operative with unlimited liabilities ..	57	57	Nil.
4. Co-operative Stores	5	1	4
5. Grain *Gola*	2	1	1
6. Large size Multipurpose Co-operative Societies	4	4	Nil.
7. *Vyapar Mandal* and *Sahyog Samiti* ..	5	5	Nil.
8. Weavers' Co-operative Societies	15	8	7
9. *Gur-Khandsari* Industrial Co-operative Societies	12	7	5

Types of Societies.	Number.	Affiliated.	Non-affiliated.
10. Pottery Industrial Co-operative Societies ..	3	1	2
11. Hand-pounding Industrial Co-operative Societies	16	0	7
12. Metal Workers' Industrial Co-operative Societies	1	1	Nil.
13. *Vishwakarma* Industrial Co-operative Societies	2	2	Nil.
14. Carpentry Industrial Co-operative Societies ..	1	1	Nil.
15. Co-operative Farming	7	2	5
16. Embroidery Co-operative Societies	2	Nil	2
17. *Dudh Utpadak* Co-operative Societies ..	1	Nil	1
18. Forest Co-operative Societies	1	Nil	1
19. *Sarvodaya* Co-operative Societies	1	Nil	1

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES WILL SHOW THE PRESENT POSITION OF CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANKS OF THE DISTRICT.

Particulars.	Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd.				Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Branch Banks.			
	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Paid-up Share Capital ..	8,688	64,903	1,69.108	1,77,613	40,000	43,682	47,095	50,369
2. Reserve Fund	18,756	19,853	18,944	32,707	13,405	13,405	20,557	20,622
3. Other Reserve Fund ..	Nil	1,795	12,117	34,951	Nil	Nil	11,749	31,431
4. Borrowed Capital ..	1,71,547	6,76,590	8,64,756	6,31,625	1,37,925	2,58,122	2,13,016	2,67,480
5. Working Capital	2,23,701	8,45,737	3,31,899	5,16,811	1,91,330	3,15,209	2,92,414	3,69,903
6. Loans outstanding at the close of the year.	1,92,018	6,67,295	6,32,766	7,80,598	1,53,290	2,75,494	2,59,671	3,52,055

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES WILL SHOW THE PROGRESS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN BHAGALPUR DISTRICT FROM 1957 TO 1959.

Types of Societies.	Years.	Number.	Members.	Paid-up capital.	Reserve.	Owned funds.	Deposits.	Loans.	Working capital.	Loans outstanding at the beginning.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Bhagalpur.	1957	1	..	8,680	38,856	Nil	53,721	1,71,547	2,72,802	92,767
	1958	1	..	64,903	20,549	Nil	1,48,500	6,11,086	8,45,640	1,92,018
	1959	1	..	1,60,108	23,707	7,294	1,31,731	4,05,165	6,55,065	8,67,296
Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Banka.	1957	1	..	40,000	13,405	53,405	1,15,245	22,690	1,91,330	1,13,927
	1958	1	..	43,682	13,405	57,087	1.47,034	1,11,068	3,15,209	1,53,289
	1959	1	..	47,095	20,557	79,401	1,64,376	48,640	2,92,417	2,75,495
Agricultural Multipurpose Co-operative Societies other than large scale Co-operative Societies.	1957	497	15,694	1,50,259	23.280	1,41,627	51,010	2,03,984	5,05,924	2,74,384
	1958	556	10,699	1,96.235	11,945	1,49,529	92,866	5,61,855	9,20,997	4,10,476
	1959	568	21,093	2,33,303	88,226	1,62,310	96,907	4,66,175	8,93,419	6,25,619
Marketing Societies other than the new Primary Marketing Societies organised under the Plan.	1957	3	123	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1958	3	121	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1959	5	149	26,345	176	Nil	Nil	14,187	40,688	Nil
Large Sized Co-operative Societies.	1957	3	595	15,506	91	12,738	950	13,026	29,573	Nil
	1958	4	891	41,243	487	36,035	2,520	55,649	99,904	6,942
	1959	10	1,694	58,419	1,094	47.685	Nil	74,892	1,10,234	23,573

FOLLOWING FIGURES WILL SHOW THE PROGRESS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN BHAGALPUR DISTRICT FROM 1957 TO 1959—*concld*.

Types of Societies.	Years.	Number.	Members.	Paid-up capital.	Reserve.	Owned funds.	Deposits.	Loans.	Working capital.	Loans outstanding at the beginning.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Co-operative Gramin Societies	1957	1	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1958	2	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1959	5	121	548	Nil	548	23	1,650	2,198	Nil
Consumer's Stores ..	1957	9	131	330	1,028	40	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1958	10	131	330	1,028	40	Nil	Nil	1,358	Nil
	1959	10	131	330	1,028	40	Nil	Nil	1,358	Nil
Urban Credit Society ..	1957	1	316	10,050	10,396	1,092	24,612	Nil	46,140	Nil
	1958	1	350	10,390	10,430	1,082	24,653	Nil	46,555	Nil
	1959	1	364	10,500	10,444	1,082	24,716	Nil	46,742	Nil
Housing Societies ..	1957	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1958	1	15	1,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,000	Nil
	1959	1	15	1,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,000	Nil
Weaver's Societies ..	1957	47	1,393	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1958	61	10,628	2,19,378	1,730	17,218	69,318	3,87,656	6,78,082	11,695
	1959	72	10,801	3,18,581	17,387	66,139	50,921	3,74,584	7,61,473	11,695

Other Industrial Societies ..	1957	23	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1958	63	325	5,968	4	5,967	1,569	16,383	23,899	Nil
	1959	110	1,829	3,15,516	12,531	5,380	Nil	64,754	1,08,323	5,607
Other Societies (a) Harijan Societies.	1957	1	163	26	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	26	Nil
	1958	1	149	43	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	43	Nil
	1959	3	159	43	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	43	Nil
Fishermen's Co-operative Societies.	1957	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1958	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1959	3	206	1,470	55	Nil	Nil	1,525	3,050	Nil
Teachers' Stores ..	1957	16	380	440	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	440	Nil
	1958	16	380	440	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	440	Nil
	1959	19	380	440	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	440	Nil
Milk Societies ..	1957	3	76	3,460	10	61	90	1,18,507	1,22,500	Nil
	1958	4	36	3,490	10	135	548	1,18,507	1,22,669	Nil
	1959	5	80	3,760	36	146	559	1,18,507	1,23,008	Nil
Grain gola Societies ..	1957	1	653	Nil	9,789	9,789	2,734	Nil	12,523	11,242
	1958	1	713	Nil	7,478	7,478	3,110	Nil	10,588	15,367
	1959	1	723	Nil	7,488	11,860	3,068	Nil	14,928	16,571

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES THROW CONSIDERABLE LIGHT ON THE WORK AND PROGRESS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND MULTIPURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE DISTRICT OF BHAGALPUR.

Name of the Central Co-operative Banks and C. D. Blocks.	Number of Societies.		Number of members.		Loans paid during the year to individuals.		Loans during the year.		Loans due at the end of the year.	
	1959.	1960.	1959.	1960.	1959.	1960.	1959.	1960.	1959.	1960.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Bhagalpur.	23	32	1,331	1.480	15,431	5,290	15,997	10,771	25,908	21,371
C. D. Block, Sabour ..	38	41	2,198	2,229	Nil	730	20,585	40,829	1,52,831	1,04,853
C. D. Block, Shahkund ..	26	26	1,493	1,546	52,335	60,287	45,114	58,295	14,637	15,618
C. D. Block, Colgong ..	32	36	855	900	7,485	1,173	15,663	11,333	29,137	19,718
C. D. Block, Pirpainti* ..	..	14	..	N.A.	..	N.A.	..	N.A.	..	N.A.
C. D. Block, Bihpur ..	22	24	1,121	1,192	11,174	7,000	7,270	7,660	6,053	6,069
C. D. Block, Naugachhia ..	33	33	1,960	1,963	10,051	440	9,931	13,994	36,951	24,079
C. D. Block, Gopalpur ..	17	19	1,736	1,719	4,596	1,950	6,627	31,852	22,538	16,880
Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Branch Banka.	19	19	1,110	1,221	12,120	19,750	7,750	5,620	14,330	23,350
C. D. Block, Rajoun ..	N.A.	50	N.A.	1,186	N.A.	59,548	N.A.	13,751	N.A.	45,797
C. D. Block, Katoria ..	N.A.	34	N.A.	1,186	N.A.	7,355	N.A.	1,455	N.A.	26,470
C. D. Block, Amarpur ..	N.A.	45	N.A.	2,238	N.A.	1,03,584	N.A.	72,576	N.A.	72,242
C. D. Block, Bounsi ..	N.A.	38	N.A.	1,108	N.A.	45,059	N.A.	25,051	N.A.	26,125
C. D. Block, Banka ..	N.A.	51	N.A.	2,629	N.A.	73,429	N.A.	66,951	N.A.	1,10,538
C. D. Block, Shambhuganj* ..	..	14	..	444	..	13,550	..	8,706	..	6,941
C. D. Block, Dhoriya† ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—

*Block started during the year 1960.
†Block started during the year 1961.
N. A.—Not available.

The Co-operative Movement has made a steady progress in the district. There has been continuous increase in the number of co-operative societies of all types and in their membership. The total number of families brought under co-operative fold is 8,645 in Bhagalpur Circle and 16,357 in Banka Circle. The total families brought under co-operative fold in the district is 25,002. From the foregoing details it will appear that co-operative movement is not only helping in providing agricultural finance but also in other field of activities, like supply of consumers' goods, chemical fertilisers, handloom industries and other important activities.

Banks

The statement below shows the banking offices in Bhagalpur district other than the Co-operative in 1961.

Bhagalpur District—Banking Offices (Other than Co-operative) in 1961.

Name of places	Name of Banks having offices	Nature of the office
Bhagalpur ..	State Bank of India ..	Branch office and Bhagalpur City Pay Offices.
	Central Bank of India ..	Branch Office.
	Punjab National Bank ..	Ditto.
	Hindusthan Commercial Bank	Ditto.
	Allahabad Bank ..	Branch Office and University Cash Office.
Colgong ..	State Bank of India ..	Pay office.
Sultanganj ..	State Bank of India ..	Ditto.

There are only two banks, viz., the State Bank of India and Allahabad Bank which have Pay Offices and Cash office respectively at Bhagalpur City, Colgong, Sultanganj and in the campus of Bhagalpur University. The rest of the banks including the State Bank of India have branch offices in the district of Bhagalpur and that also only in the town area of Bhagalpur.

The history of the earlier Banks in Bhagalpur district is somewhat dismal. About three decades back the Bhagalpur branch of a flourishing bank known as Benaras Bank had failed along with the branches elsewhere. The branches of a number of other banks had met with a similar fate between 1940—50. They are the branches

of Nath Bank, Sonar Bangla Bank, Bharat Bank, Das Bank, etc. It must be said that the faith of the common man in the banks had received a rude shock by the failure of such branches and some people who have good savings are still averse to put their money in the banks.

The branch offices of the different banks were established as follows:—Hindusthan Commercial Bank (1943), Central Bank of India (1943); Punjab National Bank (1945); Allahabad Bank (1953) and State Bank of India (1955).

These banks as usual collect the savings of the public, give loans on reasonable security and undertake the other monetary transactions which are usually done in a bank such as acting as the agent of the customers in collecting and paying cheques, bills and dividends, etc. Many of the banks act as the custodians of the valuable documents and jewellery of the customers and issue various forms of easily negotiable credit instruments. The rules of the banks differ. One bank may be allergic to give advances against perishable goods while another bank may undertake to do so. Generally speaking, the banks of Bhagalpur district are now getting popular and through them a big turn-over of business is done. It may be mentioned here that many of the businessmen of the Bhagalpur district belong to the Marwari community who are shrewd businessmen and they form a good percentage of the clientele of the banks. *Hundi* business is still continuing and is generally confined to foodgrains and cloth, and some of the banks still purchase clean *Hundis* from parties considered reliable. The banks maintain godowns where goods pledged are stocked and advances are given. Various industries in the district such as oil mills, rice mills, engineering concerns, etc., have derived a part of the capital from the banks.

The Bhagalpur branch of the State Bank of India, the Bankers' bank is a continuation of the branch of the old Imperial Bank which was opened in 1927. The branch of the State bank which took over the branch of the Imperial Bank was established in 1955. This branch undertakes all commercial banking transactions as an agent of the Reserve Bank of India, conducts the Government cash work, provides remittance facilities to banks, extends exchange and remittance facilities to the public and pays, receives, collects and remits money and securities on Government account, etc.

From the 9th October 1961, a full-fledged Public Debt Office with safe custody facilities has started functioning in Patna. This Public Debt Office has taken over from the Public Debt Office of Calcutta under the Reserve Bank of India, the management of all Central and State Government loans, the interest of which is payable at places within the State of Bihar.

SMALL SAVINGS

Small savings of the average man of limited means have a great role in the economy of the district and besides the banks who willingly accept small deposits, the State Government and Central Government have agencies to absorb such small savings. The Post-offices have their savings departments and the accent is on extending such facilities to more and more of the rural post offices.

There were 263 post offices in the district doing this work in 1960-61. This includes a head office at Bhagalpur and branch and sub-post offices. The total amount of bank balances, gross and net, from the year 1957-58 to 1960-61 are given below :—

Year			Gross	Net
1957-58	..	..	72,87.394	52,202
1958-59	..	..	82,19,475	5,27,567
1959-60	..	..	1,23.14,153	28,24,657
1960-61	..	..	1,25,69,407	26,48,686

Though the figures have been increasing since 1958-59 the response of the public has not been very encouraging in the rural areas. This is due to the fact that the incidence of literacy in the average village is low and it is difficult to keep a paper-bound savings bank account-book properly in a mud-hut. Prompt disbursals are not always made. Somehow the average illiterate or semi-literate villager has not got much confidence in the local postal savings bank.

Any citizen who has an amount of Rs. 2 can open a post office savings bank account at any post office which does savings bank work.

The maximum limit of investment is Rs. 15,000 for an individual and Rs. 30,000 for a joint account of two individuals. All local authorities and co-operative societies and non-profit making institutions can also open accounts with these banks which are called public accounts. For opening a public account there are no limits to the size of deposits which can be banked.

Interest on individual and joint accounts is allowed at the rate of 2½ per cent for the first Rs. 10,000 and 2 per cent on the balance in excess of Rs. 10,000. On public accounts interest is

allowed at 2 per cent. Interest is calculated for each calendar month. The interest earned on these investments is free of income tax, super-tax and corporation-tax.

National Savings Scheme

The beginning of Government mobilisation of small savings in India could be traced to World War I (1914—18) when the then Government issued Postal Cash Certificate of 5 years', 7 years' and 10 years' duration. They were sold at a discount and repaid at par after the completion of the maturity period. They were discontinued a few years after the war.

During World War II (1939—43), such Certificates were again introduced and even after the War they have been continued in a more intensive form because small savings from a large number of people can become a substantial item in the capital resources that are required for carrying out the Nation's Five-Year Plans.

The following categories of investments have been classified as Small Savings Investment since 1957 :—

(1) Twelve-Year National Plan Savings Certificates issued in denominations of a minimum of Rs. 5 and a maximum of Rs. 5,000 and yielding interest of 5.41 per cent.

(2) Ten Year Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates issued in denomination of Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 and yielding interest of 4 per cent per annum which is paid every year.

(3) Fifteen-Year Annuity Certificates whereby accumulated savings can be invested as a lump sum and received back in monthly instalments for a period of 15 years, the rate of interest being about 4½ per month compound.

The average weekly National Savings Certificates issued in the district of Bhagalpur is 92 and discharged 7.

The investments under the different categories of these schemes in the district of Bhagalpur for the last four years (1957-58 to 1960-61) are as follows :—

Year.	Gross.	Net.
	Rs.	Rs.
1957-58	85,06,709	7,48,152
1958-59	97,86,413	18,76,395
1959-60	1,41,43,783	42,21,807
1960-61	1,43,64,287	39,57,129

The maximum investment in these schemes was during 1959-60, Rs. 42,21,807.00 and the minimum was during the year 1957-58, Rs. 7,48,152.00 in the district of Bhagalpur.

Recently the State Government of Bihar had floated a loan scheme known as 4½ per cent Bihar State Development Loan, 1972. The lowest amount receivable was Rs. 100. The loan was for Rs. 3 crores and was closed on the very date of opening, i.e., 4th September as it was fully subscribed.

Some of the banks have also got their own savings schemes usually with liberal rate of interest for an investment 3, 5 or 10 years. There is also the opportunity of the people to make investments of their savings and the various types of securities offered by the Central Government. These instruments are negotiable.

General and Life Insurance

Before Life Insurance Corporation was formed in 1956 there were agents of almost all the Insurance Companies like Oriental Insurance Company, New Asiatic, Industrial and Prudential, General Assurance Company of India, Ruby General of India, Co-operative Assurance Company, Paladium Insurance Company, Lakshmi Insurance Company, Bharat Insurance, Free India Insurance, United India, Empire of India, Western India, Bombay Life Insurance, National Insurance, New India, Hindustan Co-operative, Metropolitan Insurance Company, etc., working in the district of Bhagalpur.

With the nationalisation of life insurance business, the Life Insurance Corporation of India became the largest single agency doing life insurance business in India. The Corporation was constituted by passing the Life Insurance Corporation Act of 1956 and was officially established on 1st September 1956, by the Government of India. From this date all Indian insurers and provident societies as also all foreign insurers ceased to carry on life insurance business in India. However, general insurance which includes fire, marine accident, theft and other insurance business has been left open to the concerns in the private sector. Most of the former insurance companies and societies which used to transact all insurance business including life, have now switched over entirely to general insurance business. Purely Life Insurance Companies have been closed down.

Under the new organisational set-up of the Corporation, Bhagalpur branch of the Life Insurance Corporation was given a start on the 1st September 1956. This branch has been placed under the territorial jurisdiction of the Division of Patna of the Eastern Zone. The Corporation has its only Branch office in the district

at Bhagalpur with a Development Centre at Naugachhia started recently during the year 1960. This Development centre is under Bhagalpur Branch but there is an Assistant Branch Manager who looks after the said centre. There are fourteen field officers in the Branch office in which nine are posted at Bhagalpur, two at Colgong, one at Sultanganj, one at Bihpur and one at Gopalpur. The field officers who have an area in their charge, work through the appointed agents who are distributed over the villages in the area. These village agents are an important link in the whole system. They secure business through direct contact with the people. These agents are on commission basis calculated on the premiums on the policy.

The Branch office collects proposals alongwith the first premium instalment either in full or in part and then these proposals are sent to Patna Divisional office for decision in respect to acceptance or otherwise of the proposals. The acceptance advices are sent by the Divisional office to the proponent under copies to the respective agents, field officers and the Branch Office. Then the Branch Office collects the balance of the first premium and makes adjustments and issues official receipts to the policy holders. In case the full first premium is realised alongwith the proposal the adjustments are made directly by the Divisional Office who also issues the receipts and the policies to the parties.

In Bhagalpur, life insurance business has been expanding rapidly which is shown by the figures given below from the year 1956 to 1960:—

Year.	Proposals introduced.		Proposals completed.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
1956 From 1st September 1956 to 31st December 1956.	892	29,51,500	257	8,95,250
1957	3,259	1,20,02,000	2,578	1,00,40,950
1958	1,412	64,33,350	1,263	55,51,850
1959	1,919	87,09,750	1,705	75,44,250
1960 Including Naugachhia Development Centre.	2,155	1,04,88,250	1,978	91,28,000

For the year 1961 up to 2nd June 1961 the position is presented by the table below :—

	Number of proposals.	Amount.
		Rs.
Proposals introduced	445	22,71,000
Proposals completed	230	10,74,250

The statement above gives an amount of policies having been completed during the six months in the beginning of the year 1961, which appears to be less and whose cause may be assigned to poverty, natural calamities such as drought, flood and scarcity in the whole district. But the flow of business is nonetheless normal, and as usual it is expected that during rest of the months, the business may well be covered as in the years before, because it was only in the month of December, 1960, that, the Corporation got completed policies worth Rs. 48,36,750.

So far general insurance is concerned which includes the insurance of godowns, money in transit, goods in transit, fidelity guarantee, personal accident, fire, etc., the incidence is not so high in the district of Bhagalpur. The General Insurance can be divided into three categories—(1) Miscellaneous accident in which motor-cars, trucks, buses, taxis, motor-cycles, burglary, etc., are included: (2) Fire which includes riot risk, flood, lightining, etc. This coverage is usually taken on properties such as houses, godowns, workshops, factories, etc., and (3) Marine accident due to which goods may not arrive intact whilst in transit from one centre to another. Motor-cars and trucks are insured compulsorily against third party risk. Owners of the new cars and many other car-owners take comprehensive policies with private insurors or subsidiaries of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

There are three subsidiaries of Life Insurance Corporation of India, viz., Oriental Fire and General, National Fire and General, and New Asiatic Government Security of Mysore, as these subsidiaries were started out of the life insurance funds of the parent companies. Oriental Government Life Insurance Company of Bombay, National Insurance Company of Calcutta and New Asiatic Government Security of Mysore.

The Oriental Fire and General and the National Fire and General have merged into one and is known as Oriental and National Insurance. Beside these companies there are other companies like New India General Assurance, Hindustan General Insurance, United India General Insurance, Callidonian Insurance which are doing business in the district of Bhagalpur.

Oriental and National Insurance do general insurance business through their 33 active and 11 inactive agents and a paid Inspector is posted at Bhagalpur. This district is looked after by their sub-branch at Monghyr where there is an Assistant Branch Secretary. Other general insurance companies have their agents and inspectors in the district. New India Assurance Company has one Inspector and fifty active agents in the district of Bhagalpur. Hindustan General Insurance have three active agents in the district. United India Insurance Company has two agents in the district. The branch office of the Hindustan General, New India and United India is located at Patna and their agents and inspectors are controlled from Patna Branch.

The potentiality of market business is estimated at about 2.5 lakhs premium collection and 50 to 60 thousands premium collection annually. They are done by capitalists, owners of factories like the Birlas, Dalmias, Tata, etc.

It is gathered that the General Insurance covered by Oriental and National Insurance, Hindustan General and New India Assurance in Bhagalpur district from 1st January, 1961 to 30th September 1961 is about Rs. 30,000, Rs. 22,000 and Rs. 20,000 respectively. The amounts represent the premiums collected.

COURSE OF TRADE

The position of Bhagalpur on the map of Bihar has a particular importance for trade and commerce. It is extremely well located and commands an extensive river front. It has an extensive railway system supported by roadways. A portion of Bhagalpur district lies on the north of the river Ganga and grows luxuriant maize and other crops. This portion is served by railways although the roadways are not well-developed. Bhagalpur has also been in close contact with Nepal through Purnea district.

It may be mentioned that Bhagalpur had been a halting place for most of the military invasions of Bengal and Assam. Many of them took place through the river route of Ganga. When roadways were not very developed, Bhagalpur had assumed some importance for her trade and commerce.

Previously water traffic was much more important as this route was quicker and safer than the unreliable roadways which were often infested with dacoits. Trade and Commerce used to move more by the waterways than roadways. During the days of Company's trade and later rule, Ganga was the principal route. The *kothis* of the merchants, Indian and non-Indians naturally grew up near the bank of the river. Euopean Indigo planters and big

merchants operated their trade by large boats and had *kothis* at Bhagalpur, Colgong, Pirpainty and Rajmahal. The main export was to Calcutta and the main import was also from there. In this way this district has been for centuries, the clearing-house for a great volume of trade and commerce.

The history of the extension of the railways in this district shows that the loopline of East Indian Railway was brought up to and terminated at Sahebganj to the east in the district of Santhal Parganas and to the west up to Jamalpur in Monghyr district. Bhagalpur was not connected by railways for a pretty long time as the hill ranges proved an obstacle. But with the development of trade and commerce it was found quite essential to connect Jamalpur and Sahebganj through Bhagalpur. The hill ranges were blasted and a tunnel was put through and Bhagalpur was put on the railway map.

Francis Buchanan's "An Account of the District of Bhagalpur in 1810-11" gives scattered references to old time trade routes. He found the river to be the main trade channel and found different types of boats were in use. It was mentioned that different types of boats, large and small were in use. Big boats could transport 1,700 maunds of goods.

Buchanan found that the greater part of the internal commerce of the district was carried on by carts, and back loads and that the roads were exceedingly bad. By far the most frequented and important road was the one leading from Calcutta to Patna *via* Murshidabad which passed through the whole length of the district. Buchanan had observed that but for two to three months of every year, it was not negotiable by any sort of carriage, or even with loaded cattle; and, even at other seasons, a four wheeled carriage or wagons could pass with much difficulty and same danger.

There have been great changes since Buchanan's time. The chief means of transport now for trade and commerce are steamers, boats, trucks and bullock carts. The district may now be described to be quite well connected by rail, road and waterways. The district is closely connected with Purnea, Monghyr and Santhal Parganas by these means of transport. Bhagalpur is directly connected with Bihar, West Bengal, Upper Assam and North Bengal for trade and commerce.

The district has several rivers, but for trade only the river Ganga, is useful. The economy of the district is predominantly agricultural and there is a more pronounced internal trade. This district contains two railways, viz., Eastern and North-Eastern Railways. Details about the railways and roadways will be found in the text on "Communications".

Bhagalpur has an interesting story of early trade, imports and exports, etc., in the account of Francis Buchanan who had travelled in the district in 1810-11.

In his time the imported rice used to come mostly from Purnea and Tirhut, but some came from Patna also. Rice was exported to Murshidabad. Wheat and barley came from Tirhut and Bihar while they were exported mostly to Murshidabad and Calcutta. A little, however went to Patna and Banaras. Maize, *Jinora*, *China*, *Marua*, pulses were sent to Patna, Banaras and Murshidabad and came from the eastern corners of Bihar and Tirhut. Kabuli gram came from the eastern corner of Bihar and was sent to Calcutta and Murshidabad. *Arhar* was sent to Calcutta, Murshidabad and Dacca.

Peas and the pulses called, *Bora*, *Mung*, *Mashkalai*, *Khesari* and *Masur* were sent to Murshidabad and Calcutta and came from Tirhut and Bihar. Mustard seeds went to Calcutta and Murshidabad and were imported from Bihar and Tirhut. *Til* and linseed came from Tirhut and were sent to Murshidabad. *Ghee* was sent to Calcutta and Murshidabad. The import of *ghee* came from Bihar and Tirhut. Salt was sent to Bhagalpur by the merchants of Murshidabad.

Sugar came from Patna, Gazipur and Dinajpur. Sugar was exported to Murshidabad and Calcutta. Coarse sugar (*Shakkar*) came from Patna, Gazipur and Banaras.

Betel-nut came mostly from Dacca and a little from Murshidabad, and was sent to Tirhut. Coconut came from Calcutta and Dacca. Tobacco came chiefly from Purnea, with a little from Tirhut, and was exported to Birbhum and Murshidabad. Indigo was sent to Calcutta, and the indigo seed according to the season, to various parts in Bengal. Opium came from the Company's factory at Patna. Turmeric and ginger came from Tirhut. Wax came from Patna and was sent to Murshidabad. The lac mostly went to Murshidabad, but a little to Birbhum.

Cotton and thread came from Mirjapur and Patna. Cotton cloth came from Purnea. Tirhut and Dhaka and was sent to the fairs in Purnea, Tirhut and Birbhum.

Bhagalpur cloth was exported partly to the west of India, partly to Calcutta. Silk Tasar went to Juggipur. Silk thread came from Purnea and went to Murshidabad. Woollen carpets and blankets came from Patna, some was sent into Tirhut. Gold thread came from Patna. Timber for posts, beams, implements of agriculture and furniture employed many people, but very little was exported. The demand was met by supplying from the forests

A great part of the business, especially the supply of Rajmahal, Murshidabad and Juggipur was conducted by the hill tribes, who paid no rent, as they used to cut trees on their own lands, but the supply of Bhagalpur and Monghyr came chiefly from the lands of the Kharakpur Raja. Small traders, many of them farmers, kept carts, with which they took these commodities from the woods, paying the cutters on the spot, and carried them to the towns where they disposed of them to more considerable dealers.

The Company's dealings in this district were very inconsiderable, and consisted of a little silk. Bhagalpuri cloth and saltpetre. There were some wholesale traders mostly natives of the places. The dealers in Bhagalpuri cloth were in good circumstances.

But now there has been a tremendous change in the picture from what was found in Buchanan's times. In Bhagalpur the chief commercial classes are Agarwals, Agraharis, Marwaris and the Banias. Agarwals are engaged usually in Banking, Trade and other allied occupations such as petty trade in gold and jewellery, money lending, etc. The poorer members among them usually act as servants and brokers. Agaraharis are tradesmen rather than banker taking to such occupations as selling rice, wheat and *kirana* goods. Marwaris are a well known and form an enterprising commercial community. They are both bankers and traders. Banias are usually petty traders in cloth and grains.

PRESENT IMPORT AND EXPORTS

The commodities entering in the internal trade include foodgrains, salt, spices, tea, cotton, woollen cloth, coal, kerosene oil, petrol, cosmetics and other luxury goods, cycles, radios, crockery, suit cases, cement, iron and steel, etc. The commodities that enter into the external trade include oilseeds. foodgrains, turmeric, sugar molasses, timber, tasar silk, hides, scrap iron, bones, handloom products, blankets, carpets and trunks.

The statement below indicates the chief places and areas from where important commodities are imported and also the destination of export trade :—

Name of commodities	From where imported
Cotton piece goods ..	Ahmedabad, Wadibunder, Indore and Kanpur.
Coal	Raniganj, Giridih and Jharia coalfield area.
Salt	Howrah and Dumri.
Iron and Steel ..	Tatanagar, Kulti and Calcutta.
Grains and Pulse ..	Kanpur, Agra Cantt. Hapur, and New Delhi.
Kerosene oil ..	Budge Budge.
Petrol	Ditto.

Names of commodities	Destination of export
Jute ..	.. Calcutta.
Oilseeds ..	.. Calcutta, Wadibunder, Bombay and within Bihar.
Maize ..	.. Assam, Uttar Pradesh and within Bihar.
Timber ..	.. Sealdah.
Foodgrains	.. Uttar Pradesh, Assam and within Bihar.
Pulses ..	.. Calcutta and Assam.
Hides ..	.. Calcutta.
Bones ..	.. Calcutta and Madras.
Scrap Iron	.. Calcutta.
Tasar silk	.. Throughout India and even outside the country.
Fish ..	.. Calcutta.
Jaggery ..	.. Within Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
Turmeric ..	.. Mostly to Uttar Pradesh.

The movement of the commodities in the above statement is done mostly by railways. Movement of goods by water is now more or less confined to short distances. Recently, however, fast moving trucks had been playing an important role in moving goods both to and from the district. With the construction of the National Highway from West Bengal and the development of a number of roads under the Five-Year Plans, the number of trucks operating through Bhagalpur will be on the increase. Trucks are mainly employed for keeping up trade communications with Bhagalpur and Santhal Parganas both ways.

Bullock-carts play an extremely important role in moving goods to the primary and secondary markets. The number of bullock-carts is definitely on the increase.

Certain commodities like petroleum, kerosene oil, cloth, grains, spices, etc., are both imported and exported. This means that the big merchants of the district act as the agent and they import the goods and also despatch them to various other places allotted to them by the factory heads.

The volume of goods traffic at Bhagalpur (Eastern Railway), Bhagalpur (N.E. Railway), Colgong and Naugachhia Railway Station in 1959-60 was as follows :—

Colgong Railway Station

Commodities.	Exports (in maunds).	Imports (in maunds).
1. Grains and Pulses ..	77,797	Commodity-wise figures of imports were not available at the Colgong Railway Station
2. Jagree	42,992	
3. Oil-cake . ..	25,863	The Railway authorities could only mention that there was a total quantity of 88,762 maunds of articles imported at Colgong Railway Station.
4. Oil-seeds	13,646	
5. China Clay	4,671	
6. Rice	6,220	
7. Oils	3,083	
8. Timber	9,951	
9. Petroleum	5,307	

Naugachhia Railway Station

Commodities.	Exports (in maunds).	Imports (in maunds).
Grains and Pulses ..	5,16,463	Commodity-wise figures of imports were not available at Naugachia Railway Station.
Oil-seeds	67,290	
Jute	12,111	The Railway authorities could only mention that there was a total quantity of 2,74,692 maunds of articles imported at Naugachia Railway Station.
Dhania	2,462	
Oilcake	7,661	

Bhagalpur (North-Eastern Railway)

Commodities.	Exports (in maunds).	Imports (in maunds).
Grains and Pulses ..	96,257	Commodity wise figures of imports were not available at Bhagalpur (N.E. Railway)
Onions and Potatoes ..	83,956	
Petroleum	68,134 Gallons.	The Railway authorities could only mention that there was a total quantity of 3,29,432 maunds of articles imported at N. E Rly., Bhagalpur.
Iron	73,427	
Miscellaneous ..	6,10,460	

Bhagalpur (Eastern Railway)

Commodities.	Imports.	Commodities.	Exports.
1. Cotton piece goods .	98,99,246 yards	Silk (Tasar) ..	4,57,892 yards.
2. Coal	45,67,892 maunds	Rice ..	1,45,673 maunds.
3. Salt	7,89,674 ditto	Potato ..	60,000 ditto.
4. Iron and Steel ..	1,12,405 tons.	Vegetable oil ..	35,434 ditto.
5. Grains and Pulses	11,04,282 maunds	Mangoes ..	4,56,789 ditto.
6. Kerosene oil ..	4,23,730 gallons	Finished *biri* ..	40,000 packets of 20,000 *of biris.*
7. Petrol	3,60,984 Ditto	..	..
8. Timber ..	5,07,892 maunds	Fresh vegetables	3,45,678 maunds.

Inter-district exports and imports of foodgrains seem to have a large turnover. Paddy is grown extensively in the southern part of the district while maize in the eastern. Maize is grown in Bihpur and Naugachhia *thanas*. Lacs of maunds of maize are grown in this area and particularly at Naugachhia area. A large quantity of maize comes from Naugachhia *thana* to different parts of the district. Maize figures are included in grains and pulses. A good deal of rice and maize are mutually exchanged between the southern and nothern parts of the district respectively.

The receipts of Sales tax also indicate the volume and value of internal trade. The rate of Sales tax varies from 2nP. to 9nP. Under Bihar Sales Tax Act, 1959 which has repealed the Old Bihar Sales Tax Act, 1947, there are two types of taxes, i.e., General Sales Tax and Special Sales Tax.

General Sales Tax is levied at the rate of 2 nP. of the total taxable turnover. Special Sales Tax is levied at different rates as specified in Schedules I, II and III appended with Government Circular no. 9133 and 9134, dated 1st July 1959.

List of goods exempted from the levy of General Sales Tax only are coal, cotton, hides and skin, iron and steel, oil-seeds, fertilisers, fruits, motor vehicles and cereals and pulses. The rate of Sales tax is 2 nP. in the above commodities per rupee of the turnover. Sales tax is not levied on all commodities, but there are a few items which are exempted from it. Another difficulty in the way

is that Sales tax is levied on only such businessmen whose annual turnover exceeds Rs. 15,000 and hence it cannot be a true pointer as many dealers have a very small turnover to come within the purview of Sales tax. Recently there has been a change in the collection of Sales tax. Sales tax is also levied on such businessmen whose annual turnover ranges from Rs. 5,000 to 15,000. They are known as enrolled dealers and given enrolment certificates. This system has been helpful to some extent to raise the value of internal trade. Another difficulty in the way is this that tax on the gold and bullion is not levied on their actual turnover, but the amount to be collected from each district is fixed at the State level. Sales tax also does not give us separate amount collected on the turnover of different commodities in trade. It is also not possible to assess the number of tax-evaders and the amount of tax evaded. Whatever may be the reason, the collection of Sales tax could be used to indicate at least the value of internal trade in the district.

The amount of Sales tax collected on the trade turnover of all the commodities is given in the statement of the Statistics of Commercial Taxes Department under receipt and expenditure :—

	Bihar Sales Tax.	Passangers and goods transport.
	Rs.	Rs.
1958-59	17.29,101	1,01,690
1959-60	15,83,758	2,70,235
1960 61	19.05,641	2,10,610

Bihar Sales Tax was introduced in the district from 1944-45. In 1960-61 the collection from this tax amounted to Rs. 19,05,641. The collection in 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 in this district amounted to Rs. 14,18,072, Rs. 14,02,631, Rs. 14,50,749 and Rs. 14,71,270 respectively.

The reason for downward and upward trend during the aforesaid years was mainly owing to the deregistration of a large number of dealers consequent upon the raising of the registrable limit from over Rs. 10,000 to over Rs. 15,000 from 1954.

The number of persons employed in Trade and Commerce will also help us in the investigation. The Census Report of 1951 mentions that in Bhagalpur district, out of a population of 14,29,069 about 2,55,296 people or 17.6 per cent of the population are engaged in commerce. The bulk of them, i.e., 2,23,450 are living in rural

areas as against 31,846 in urban areas. The table below shows the number of persons engaged in different kinds of commerce* :—

Nature of business.	Number of persons.
1. Wholesale trade in foodstuffs	728
2. Wholesale trade in commodities other than foodstuffs	890
3. Retail trade in foodstuffs	9,422
4. Retail trade in textile and leather goods ..	3,502
5. Retail trade in fuel (including petrol) ..	1,794
6. Retail trade otherwise unclassified ..	7,972
7. Money lending, banking and other financial business	1,022

It may be mentioned here that the census figures in this connection appear to have been underestimated. There would not be much of spontaneity to return one as in trade and commerce because of the allergy against being made a payee of Sales Tax or Income-tax.

Regulated Markets

There is no regulated market so far in this district. The State Government have passed the Bihar Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1960 to regulate the various features of agricultural marketing. The avowed object of having regulated markets is to secure the best possible price to which the agriculturist is entitled after defraying the legitimate expenditure of marketing and after taking into account the price that could be realised for the quality of produce in the terminal markets. Establishing equity in bargaining power between the agriculturist and purchaser, promoting mutual confidence, preventing mal-practices and giving a fair deal to the farmers are the other objectives which the Act seeks to achieve.

The Act provides for the formation of a Market Committee which is a corporate body charged with the administration and management of the market under its jurisdiction. The Marketing Committee shall consist of 15 elected members consisting of agriculturists, traders, co-operative societies, co-operative banks, gram panchayats and Government representative.

A gazetted officer designated as Market Secretary has been posted at 10 markets in the State and Bhagalpur is one of them. After collection of necessary data notification would be made under

*Extract from District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur, pages 52 to 54.

section 3 of the Act declaring the intention of the State Government to regulate the purchase and sale of agricultural produce in these markets. After considering the objections and suggestions received in this connection a final notification would be issued under section 4 enforcing the provisions of the Act and the Market Committee would be formed to run the markets according to the provisions of the Act. It is proposed to cover only the wholesale transaction in important commodities at the outset.

Bhagalpur being a very important trade centre mainly in agricultural produce will have certain new trends when there is a regulated market at Bhagalpur. It will save the producers from the interlopers and keep the growers and consumers abreast of the latest trends in the market by quick dissemination of the marketing information. It will naturally take some time to have a regulated market in Bhagalpur as the Market Secretary has only recently been posted and is busy in collecting necessary data. No da'a collected by him was made available.

CENTRES OF WHOLESALE BUSINESS AND *Mandis*

There are mainly three commodities, namely, cloth, grains and turmeric arranged according to importance in which wholesale business is carried on in the district. Many retail dealers of other districts like Monghyr, Purnea and Santhal Parganas have a direct contact with the wholesale dealers of this district. The petty and less resourceful dealers of the district have their dealings with the local wholesale merchants. So far grains are concerned, much of the paddy produce is procured by the rice mills of the district. The south rn parts of the district is the chief paddy producing area and some rice mills are situated in that portion. There are rice mills, big and small at Mirjanhat of Bhagalpur town and in other places of the district.

The chief centres of wholesale business in the district are Mirjanhat, Nathnagar, Aliganj (Bhagalpur), Sultanganj, Colgong, Pirpainti, Naugachhia, Jagdishpur and Barahat. Bhagalpur town has been the chief marketing centre in the district since long being the headquarters of the division and the district as well. It has the advantage of all the modes of communications—Railways, Roadways and Waterways.

Wholesale trading in grains is carried on at each of the wholesale trading centres of the district, but the most important of them are Sultanganj, Mirjanhat, Barahat and Naugachhia. Mirjanhat is also one of the important wholesale business centres of the district. It is situated within the town about three miles from Bhagalpur Collectorate. Sultanganj is in the western portion of the district which is a very fertile tract. Sultanganj is on the railway line from Patna-Kiul to Bhagalpur and has several road connections with the interior of the district. It has rice mills.

Almost all the wholesale trading centres in the district have developed a grain *mandi*. Some of the important *mandis* are described below.

Mirjanhat Grain Mandi

This *mandi* is situated in the south of the railway station of Bhagalpur. It is at a distance of about three miles from Bhagalpur Collectorate. The *mandi* is located on about one bigha of land. People intending to enter into sale or purchase of grains assemble here.

The contractor of the *mandi* charges rupee one per truck load, annas eight per tyre cart-load and annas four per ordinary cart-load of the grain brought at the *mandi*. This amount is paid by the seller. There are several other charges which a grain merchant is required to bear. There are weighing charge, *dharmada* and *goshala* charges. The rate of weighment charge is half an anna per bag. The weighment charge is paid by the purchaser. The seller has also to pay two naye paise per bag. The seller has also to pay one *chattack* of any kind of grain per bag to the labourer concerned. The charge for *dharmada* and *goshala* both together is 15 nP. per hundred of the turnover and is paid by the seller.

The weighing charge is actually the wages of the person who weighs grains, whereas *dharmada* and *goshala* are meant for charitable purposes, the former being used for religious charities such as giving alms to beggars, constructing *dharmshalas* (inns), etc. There is, however, no proper organisation to administer the amount so collected for *dharmada* and *goshala* charges. This *mandi* has an approximate average annual arrival of 1,20,000 maunds of paddy and 80,000 maunds of rice and 60,000 maunds of maize from the nearby villages and Naugachhia. The *dhalai* (transport from the conveyance to the godown) charge ranges from 16 nP. to 31 nP. only because it fluctuates day to day.

Aliganj Grain Mandi

This *mandi* is situated at Aliganj about five miles from Bhagalpur railway station. The area is about four furlongs. This has an average annual arrival of 70,000 maunds of paddy and 60,000 maunds of rice from the nearby villages. The rates of market charges are—Weighment 12 nP. per bag, *dharmada* 31 nP. per rupees 100 and *dhalai* 50 nP. per rupees. 100.

RETAIL MARKETING CENTRES

The main retail marketing centres in the district are at Bhagalpur, Sabour, Nathnagar, Colgong, Sultanganj, Naugachhia, Bihpur, Banka, Sanhoula, Ghogha, Barahat, Pirpainti and Jagdishpur.

At all these places retail shops of almost all the commodities locally consumed are found. Retail shops of some particular articles like radio receiving sets, sewing machines, cycles, etc., are to be found only in Bhagalpur proper.

It is reported that there are about 2,047 registered retail dealers and about 200 registered wholesale dealers in this district (1961). Retail trading is done in all kinds of commodities like foodgrains, cloth, silk, sugar and *kirana* goods, etc. It is difficult to determine the volume of retail trade due to inadequacy of statistics, tax-evasion and clandestine business. It would, however, be fair to assume that the amount of Sales tax and other commercial taxes collected give some indication. The receipts of Sales tax have been discussed elsewhere.

Retail shops, which provide a link between the consumer and the wholesaler, are located in various wards of the town and to a certain extent cater to the needs of the inhabitants of the localities. The stock-in-trade of a majority of retail trade shops is limited but rapid replenishments are made. The capital investments of most of the shops are also limited. Retailers usually have dealings with some wholesalers in the town itself but not infrequently they have dealings with bigger traders outside. Retail sales are generally on cash basis but goods on credit are also given to some customers whose accounts are settled periodically. It is feared that in a large percentage of sales no cash memos. are given and sales tax payment is avoided.

Among retail trade shops in the district the grocery group is most important. It has the largest number of shops and provides the largest employment. Cereals and pulses, spices, jaggery, oil, *ghee*, condiments, tea, coffee, indigenous drugs, dry fruits, *agarbatti*, saffron, tinned stuff, foodstuff, cigarettes and a number of other miscellaneous goods are sold in these shops. The value of stock-in-trade of individual shops varies widely, i. e., from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000. The retail shopkeepers in this group get their stock in grains from the local wholesale dealers. The other articles and products are bought from local wholesalers who in turn obtain the same from various manufacturing centres particularly from cities like Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur and also other places within Bihar.

Next in importance to groceries come the sweetmeat and other shops that sell cooked food. There are a large number of them in Bhagalpur town. There is a brisk trade in this form of business at the time of religious festivals. The stock-in-trade of this type of shops varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 3,000.

Pan, *bidi* and cigarette shops are plenty. They have a large turnover in the district. Sale is mostly on cash basis. Most of

the establishments are one man's establishments selling, *Pan, bidi*, cigarette, chewing tobacco, etc. The stock-in-trade is generally obtained locally and sometimes from outside. A large number of these establishments make small quantities of *bidis* sufficient for their own sales. The value of stock-in-trade varies from Rs. 25 to Rs. 500.

As regards cloth and hosiery it may be mentioned that these shopkeepers sell all kinds of textiles cotton, woollen, silk for shirting, coating, etc., sarees, dhotis, towels, and various kinds of hosiery. Besides mill-made fabrics, they stock and sell handloom and power-loom products. The stock-in-trade of an average shop is usually Rs. 500 but a few large shopkeepers stock goods worth Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2,00,000. The big shops employ clerks to keep accounts, besides salesmen. Handloom and power-loom products manufactured in the district are obtained by the shopkeepers either directly from factories or from wholesale dealers. Sales usually shoot up during festivals and marriage season.

Footwear and other leather goods such as leather, accessories of shoe making such as sewing thread, nails, clips, belts, purses, etc., are sold by shoppers. The value of stock-in-trade of these traders varies from Rs. 700 to Rs. 5,000. Business is generally slack during monsoon and brisk during the summer season.

Shopkeepers under the group of Chemists and Druggists sell chemicals of various kinds, foreign and indigenous drugs, medicines and surgical instruments. A large part of the chemical drugs and medicines stocked is of a foreign origin and brought mainly from Bombay and Calcutta. There has been a large expansion of this line.

Hawkers

Like pedlars in rural areas, their counterpart in urban areas, viz., hawkers play an important role in the retail trade of the district. However, organised trading activities due to urbanisation, a product of industrial revolution and the resultant evolution of shops (big or small) do not give much scope to hawkers specially in towns and cities. Even then they continue to be prominent in semi-urban areas. They sell comparatively cheaper articles usually of every day use, viz., fruits, sweetmeats, pepper-mints, sugarcane juice, cheap utensils, toys and a number of other articles in daily use. Hawkers who sell tea, sweetmeats, etc., are licensed and a license fee of Rs. 2 each per month is collected from them. There are, however, a large number of hawkers who do not take licenses from the Municipalities. However, those who sell groundnuts, fruits, etc., are not required to take licenses. They are found to be doing their business near the railway station, bus stand and cinemas. In towns hawkers from nearby areas come to the *bazar* to sell their goods.

FAIRS AND MELAS AND OTHER RURAL MARKETS

Fairs and *melas* in the district may be divided into two categories, viz., seasonal and permanent. Seasonal fairs are held in a particular season and the time of such fairs is determined by the lunar calendar. Permanent fairs or *hats* are held throughout the year on fixed days in the week and are locally known as *hats*. Seasonal fairs are basically religious in origin while *hats* on fixed days are more commercial in its origin.

Seasonal fairs are held at Jagdishpur, Gopalpur, Tintanga, Bounsi, Amarpur, Rajaun, Bhagalpur town, Sultanganj and Banka town. By far the most important among the seasonal fairs are at Bhagalpur town, Bounsi and Sultanganj.

At Bhagalpur town fairs are held on many occasions in the year, viz., *Phalgun Triodasi*, *Basant Panchami*, *Sravan Nag Panchmi*, *Shivaratri*, *Anant Chaturdasi*, etc. The congregation on the occasion of *Sravan* is the largest and next comes *Basant Panchmi*. The *Sravan mela* is held on every Monday and continues on the successive four to five Mondays. The *Basant Panchmi mela* lasts generally for two days. In Bhagalpur town there is a famous Shiva temple, *Burhanath* and a large number of men, women and children visit the temple on every Monday in the month of *Sravan*. About ten to twenty thousand people visit *Burhanath* on such occasions. At Chouki Champanagar the *mela* lasts for about a month. The mela is held in the enclosure of the *Durgasthan* and on the both side of the road. *Jatra party* and theatres on this occasion are very popular.

An important *mela* called *Behula mela* is held in the month of *Sravan*. It is estimated that about 50,000 people congregate in Champanagar and Bhagalpur town on this occasion, the bulk of whom is from the rural areas.

In Bhagalpur town also a fair is held on the occasion of *Durga Puja* and lasts for about ten days and attracts a large number of visitors both rural and urban. The floating population on this occasion will be near about a lakh.

A big *mela* is held on the occasion of *Muharram* at Shahjangi in Bhagalpur town where thousands of people congregate and the *mela* lasts for two days.

The *mela* at Bounsi on the occasion of *Makar Sankranti*, i.e., in the month of January of every year is the largest fair in the district. It lasts for about a week and nearly one lakh of people from the district and outside visit the fair.

There is a *Shiva* temple named Ajgaivinath at Sultanganj and in the month of *Sravan* on every Monday people assemble there to worship *Shiva*. About ten to twenty thousand of people would be visiting the temple. The temple is in the islet of river Ganga. A mela is also held at Bateshwar Nath at Colgong on the eve of *Shivaratri* which attracts about 10,000 persons.

Dhankund mela is also held on the bank of a tank on the occasion of *Shivaratri*. The place is located on the Jagdishpur-Sonoula road. About 10,000 persons visit the *mela*.

Every *mela* is a great clearing house for trade and commerce. A large number of temporary shops crop up and articles of almost every description are sold and purchased. The visitors and particularly those from the rural areas visit the *melas* also for making purchases for their domestic needs. In almost all the *melas* many wooden articles such as chairs, bedoots, tables, iron goods, food-stuffs and other miscellaneous articles are sold in a large quantity. Apart from these, several other seasonal *melas* are also held in the rural areas of the district, but they are of smaller importance and last for only a day or two.

The number of rural *hats* is quite considerable in the district. A *hat* is held once or twice a week and is the primary market for grains and other commodities. Most of the internal trade is carried on by them. The size of *hats* varies according to the area and population served by them. Generally about 1,500 to 2,000 people from the neighbouring villages gather at these *hats* to purchase commodities for domestic use. At these *hats* commodities like cloth, cereals, condiments, vegetables, etc., are sold. The merchants go there to sell commodities. There are some permanent groceries shops and sweetmeat shops in the *hats*. Some grain merchants also depute their men to purchase grains at these *hats*. Many transactions at these *hats* are carried out on barter system and it is a common sight to find village folks exchanging grains for vegetables, condiments, etc. The chief modes of conveyance for carrying goods to the *hats* are by bullock carts, pack bullocks and ponies, and by head-load. These *hats* are being modernised and shaving saloons, tea-shops, cafes for snacks and soft drinks are becoming common.

Apart from *hats* and fairs there are several permanent *bazars* in the district usually on the main roads. Generally at these shops commodities like salt, mustard oil, kerosene oil, *ghee*, condiments, pulses, cereals, etc., are sold. Cloth shops are also found at every village of some importance. A village or a township having such several shops of a comparatively bigger in size are locally known as *bazars*. Much of the retail business in the district is carried through these *bazars*.

List of *hats* subdivision-wise is given in an Appendix.

CO-OPERATION IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

There is mutual co-operation between the wholesale and retail dealers as their business is inter-dependent. The wholesale dealers supply the goods to the retailers on credit. The retailers repay the amount to the wholesaler after selling the goods. But this credit facility is given only to reliable and trusted retailers. Credit facility is usually not given in gold and silver business. Perishable goods are also not normally given such facilities although lump sums are allowed by the whole salers as loans. Bhagalpur is famous for cloth and grain market. Retailers of *muffasil* area take cloth and grain from wholesalers of Bhagalpur. Government also provide credit facility to some extent to the retailers who run Government controlled Fair Price Shops. Yarn is also supplied on credit to the weavers of the district through Weavers' Co-operative Society.

MODE OF DISSEMINATION OF TRADE NEWS

Trade news of markets in general percolate to the local merchants through letters, daily papers, radio receiving sets, telephones and telegrams. The daily newspapers published from Patna, Calcutta or other places in English or in the Vernacular languages carry trade news and they are eagerly scanned. Recently some exclusive trade journals in English are becoming popular with the English knowing businessmen. Besides, the merchants also receive information from Government Department. A Marketing Section has been opened under the guidance of Agriculture Department and a Marketing Inspector has been appointed who communicates news regarding trade and commerce to the traders and also the fluctuations of daily rates of the market.

PRICE CONTROL MEASURES

Due to the exigencies of the Second Great War there was an abnormal rise of price of certain essential commodities, viz., rice, wheat, cloth, cement, kerosene, pertol, etc. It was also necessary to control the supply and consumption for these articles for essential purposes and the State Government along with the Central Government had to follow the policy of controlling the supply of such goods which were absolutely necessary for the public and had to see to the proper supply of such articles for essential purposes. In order to check the spiral rise of price of such articles and to stop the rampant black-marketing in them, the scheme of the opening of Fair Price Shops in the urban areas was evolved. A buffer reserve of essential commodities was sought to be built up by the State Government by direct procurement of foodgrains and other articles, stock then in Government godowns and supply them to the Fair Price Shops which were licensed. The system of ration card for the consumer was insisted on where a maximum quota of

foodgrains and cloth was laid down for each individual in a family unit. For this purpose a survey of the family units was made and there used to be a constant check for plugging the loopholes.

The Fair Price Shops were first started in Bhagalpur town in 1942 for supply of rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene oil and cloth, etc. At no stage was there a totalitarian control on such stuffs which had a salutary effect in bringing down the prices of such commodities available outside the Fair Price Shops.

These Fair Price Shops serve a double purpose—(*i*) to supply essential foodstuffs at reasonable prices in abnormal times and (*ii*) work as a check on the spiral rise of prices of such articles at abnormal periods. Whenever there would be a larger supply of the commodities in the market through normal channels, the demand for taking stuffs from Fair Price Shops would automatically decline. This system continued throughout the war period and is still continuing in some shape or other.

During War period Government had also to exercise control over steel, iron goods, cement and petrol but the supply of these commodities was not made through the Fair Price Shops. These commodities continued to be supplied to the public through their normal agencies but under the restrictions imposed by statutory orders.

Even after the close of the Second Great War the control on the essential foodstuff as indicated before has had to continue. The ration card system for drawing commodities had stood the test and was allowed to remain although the demand on the Fair Price Shops becomes more insistent whenever there is an abnormal rise of prices due to short supply or other reasons.

The control on the cloth and some of the essential foodgrains was quite rigid up to 1946. The rigid control was withdrawn in the later part of the year 1946 but had to be re-imposed in December, 1949. Although the control on the distribution of some articles was withdrawn, the system of license on basic essentials such as wheat, rice and cloth had to continue.

The scheme of Fair Price Shops had to be extended from Bhagalpur town to other urban areas such as Banka, Colgong and Sultanganj. It was found unnecessary to extend them to the rural areas as the villages were never starved of the supply of such foodstuff although there was a rise in the prices. Even when a statutory levy order was passed the surplus paddy of the large cultivators used to be procured at the *Khalian*, i.e., threshing floor the villagers did not suffer to any appreciable extent. This was due to the fact that the producers who were financially well

stabilised were deliberately withholding the supply of their surplus stock to the market in order to make an abnormal profit. Besides direct purchase the State Government had to appoint certain agents to supply foodgrains at a particular price on commission basis.

To store the foodgrains there were a number of godowns in the district and the godowns in the Bhagalpur town acted as the central unit. The first godown was set up in Bhagalpur town in 1942. The trade and the authorised dealers used to supply the stuff to these godowns and the supply procured by Government direct through railways or otherwise used to be stored in these godowns as well. On fixed dates the licensees of the Fair Price Shops used to come to these godowns for taking their supply. The statement below indicates the number of godowns, quantity of foodgrains supplied and the number of Fair Price Shops in the district.

	Years.			
	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
1	2	3	4	5
1. Number of godowns functioning.	14	39	14	12
2. Supply of foodgrains ..	56,664 mds.	6,05,751 mds.	73,637 mds.	Not available.
3. Number of Fair Price Shops	418	600	134	250

From time to time statutory orders were passed by the State Government and executive steps had to be taken. The district was taken as an unit only and the smaller interests of the district naturally had to be merged for the larger interests of the State and country. For example, the heavy workers in Jamshedpur area engaged in steel products necessary for the war and the units for the military personnel deployed at various zones in the country had to be given priority against the interests of the civilian population of a district. From time to time embargo on inter-district movement of essential foodstuffs had to be imposed. Goods traffic through waterways, railways and the roadways had to be watched. Executive action against hoarding and black-marketing had to be taken.

The aftermath of the Second Great War could not normally subside owing to unfortunate droughts, floods and scarcity conditions that had visited the district from time to time. The Supply Department at the Secretariat level and the District Supply Officer, under the District Magistrate at district level had to continue.

In 1950 the supply position had become very acute and the State Government promulgated Bihar Foodgrains Control Order, 1950 in this district. The Bihar Rationing Order to distribute ration in urban and rural areas was promulgated in the same year in Bhagalpur district.

The district was allotted additional foodgrains by the Centre and thousands of tons of wheat and *jawar* were rushed from East Punjab and Madhya Pradesh. There was a certain apathy to consume more of wheat but the allergy was slowly got over. The belt had naturally to be tightened owing to short supply and ration was regimented.

The quantum of ration was as follows :—

(*a*) In urban and industrial areas—Not to exceed 12 ozs. or 6 *chattacks* per adult per day.
(*b*) In rural areas—Not to exceed 8 ozs. or 4 *chattacks* per adult per day.
(*c*) Children below nine years got half the ration.
(*d*) In distressed areas where relief operations were in progress, the labourers were given an extra 4 ozs. or 2 *chattacks* per capita a day. The exact quantum of the ration varied from time to time according to stock position.

The position being as above the State Government promulgated Bihar Foodgrains Control Order, 1950 in this district in the same year. The Bihar Agricultural Levy Order, 1950 was also enforced in Bhagalpur district and considerable quantities of rice and paddy were purchased from the large producers and the rice mills.

The position, however, eased up by 1953 due to better harvest. From 1953 to 1956 the supply position was better and the Fair Price Shops were not much in demand.

During the later part of 1958, there was scarcity of rice and prices soared high. Government introduced the Bihar Milled Rice Procurement (Levy) Order, 1958 according to which mill owners and dealers were required to deliver 25 to 50 per cent of their production to Government at the rate of Rs. 16 per maund for standard medium rice. There was scarcity in certain particular pockets. Since 1960 the position of the supply of rice and wheat has considerably eased up. Fair Price Shops sell more of wheat

as the ruling price of wheat in the open market is higher. There is no dearth of rice or other foodgrains in the open market in September, 1961.

CONTROL ON OTHER ARTICLES

Sugar.—Control on sugar was imposed in 1944 in this district but it was withdrawn in 1948 because the supply position of sugar had much improved. Sugar was brought from foreign countries. There was again scarcity of sugar in 1950 and sugar was again controlled under Sugar Control Order. In 1953 the control over sugar was suspended and there was no control till April, 1959. The Bihar Sugar Dealers Licensing Order was introduced in 1959. In 1961, 37 sugar dealers licenses were renewed.

The licensed dealers get allotment of sugar on their indents direct from the Chief Director of Sugar and Vanaspati, New Delhi on the recommendations of the District Magistrate through the State Government. The District get allotment of 25 Broad gauge wagons monthly and *ad hoc* allotment is also made for meeting the necessity during important festivals. In September, 1961 the position of sugar supply in the district was satisfactory.

Iron and Steel.—At present (September, 1961) iron and steel are in short supply although there is no direct control. There are two registered iron stockists and one scrap merchant at Bhagalpur. Allotment of iron is made by the State Government to the stockists through quota certificate. The stockists submit indent to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta. The supply is irregular.

Cement.—The Bihar Cement Control Order, 1948 was introduced in December, 1948, which required dealers to obtain licenses and dispose of the stock at controlled rates to permit holders. In 1958, due to satisfactory position of cement, control over the distribution was relaxed. In 1959 the control over distribution of cement was withdrawn. In 1960 due to want of wagon supply, position of cement became uncertain and Government have had to introduce the quota system on cement allotment. The selling rate of cement has to be fixed by the Subdivisional Officers concerned. There are about 64 cement licensees in the district and the present quarterly quota of the district is about 76 wagons but there is difficulty in wagon movement. Hence to meet the scarcity the Government have to take the help of new licencees who would procure cement by road. The cement factories being far away from Bhagalpur this system has not been very helpful. On local enquiry it was found that throughout 1961 there has been a great difficulty in wagon movement of cement. There is an acute demand of cement in the district owing to cement scarcity.

Coal.—The Bihar Coal Control Order was introduced in October, 1947 in this district. Four classes of coal were allotted to the district. In 1950 the district got quarterly allotment of 100 B. G. wagons for oil industries, 97 for food industries, 83 for fuel coke and 365 wagons for brick burning. On account of shortage of wagons, the supply particularly of brick burning coal could not be regularised. The dealers of soft-coke (fuel) and brick-burning coal had to obtain licence and the distribution was made on permit. The selling rate was fixed by the District Officer. In 1956 the Bihar Coal Control Order was amended which abolished the permit system which existed prior to 1956 and after the amendment some relaxation was made. Before the amendment, quota of supply had to be fixed and distribution was on the basis of unit system but the amendment changed this system.

From 1959 the State Government ordered to allot another class of coal, viz., S. S. I. (for small-scale industries) to Z. B. R. dealers (soft coke). From 1960 due to scarcity of wagon supply, coal scarcity is being felt in the district. To remove this scarcity road licence was issued for transporting coal by road. The district quota of coal is about 780 wagons of Z. B. R. (soft coke), 44 wagons of B. R. K. coal (brick-burning coal), 540 wagons of fuel and O. L. E. (for the purpose of oil mills), 72 wagons of S. S. coal (Large-scale Industries) and 108 wagons of S. S. I. coal (Small-scale Industries) per year. There are 63 depot licencees and 40 road licencees in the district. The coal is sold after the fixation of selling rates by the Subdivisional Officers concerned.

There has been difficulty in coal wagon movement. The wagon scarcity for moving coal was felt in 1959 when the State Government introduced the Road Licence to dealers. The dealers used to bring coal by roadways and used to sell at a fixed rate of Rs. 1-14-0 per maund. This has eased the position to some extent in the district. Wagons are not supplied by the department of railways to the State Government to the extent of their quota for distribution to the dealers. The quota is, therefore, supplemented by road licencees. The present ruling price of coal is Rs. 2-8-0 per maund.

Kerosene Oil.—The Bihar Kerosene Oil Control Order was promulgated in October, 1948 in this district to regulate the supply and distribution of kerosene oil. In 1950 there were 12 wholesale agents and 839 retailers in this district. The monthly quota of the district was 38,219 gallons. Till 1951 the supply of kerosene oil was scarce and there was full control on it. In 1952 due to foreign supply, i.e., from Burma and other places the position somewhat improved and in 1953 the control on kerosene oil was withdrawn and since then supply position is reported to be satisfactory.

Cloth and Yarn.—With a view to meet the scarcity of cloth the Government of Bihar promulgated the Bihar Cloth and Yarn Control Order in November, 1948 in the district. This required the wholesale dealers, retailers and hawkers to take licence and sell the commodities at controlled rates. Cloth and yarn had to be imported through provincial nominees. Prior to 1948 standard cloth was sold in the year 1947 (Dhoti, Saree and Markin) of red and black border through Government machinery. Standard cloth was evolved to meet the demand of an austerity ration of cloth as the common man was unable to purchase the high priced mill cloth. The cloth was of utility pattern and quite durable and was in great demand. Woollen standard cloth for coating and shirting were also sold through licensed shops. In 1944 cloth was sold on ration cards to the public. This system lasted for three years and was closed down in 1947.

The price of standard cloth was as follows :—

Standard cloth (cotton).	Standard cloth (woollen).
1. *Dhoti*—Rs. 2 per piece.	1. Coating– Rs. 8 per yard.
2. *Saree*—Rs. 2-8-0 per piece.	2. Shirting– Rs. 4 per yard.
3. Markin– Rs. 0-5-0 per yard.	

Two units for adult and 1 unit for child were fixed. The adult members used to get 10 yards of standard cloth in a year.

In 1950 there were fourteen cloth importers and ten yarn importers, besides, 4,754 licensees in the district. About 800 to 900 lakhs of bales of cloth and 40 to 60 bales of yarn per month were allotted to Bhagalpur which were quite inadequate for the large population. This caused acute shortage of cloth and the shortage continued till 1951 when distribution of cloth on the basis of ration cards was introduced. By the middle of 1952 the supply position improved and gradual decontrol was exercised. In 1953 the system of obtaining cloths and yarn through provincial nominee was discontinued. Since then the cloth and yarn merchants are simply required to take licence for dealing in cloth and yarn. At present the supply of cloth position has much improved due to decontrol and there is no dearth of mill-made cloth, handloom and *khadi*. As a matter of fact there is a glut in the cloth market.

Supply and Commerce Department, Bhagalpur

The Supply and Commerce Department at district level was created in 1941 but it started functioning in a full-fledged manner from 1943. The District Supply Officer with his headquarters at

Bhagalpur is in charge of the district and is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur.

The District Supply Officer is assisted by the two Assistant Supply Officers posted in the two subdivisions of the district under the administrative control of the respective S.D.Os. Besides, there are twenty Supply Inspectors in the district at different points, i.e., in urban and rural areas to supervise the fair distribution of cement, coal and other controlled commodities. The main function of the department is to enforce the control orders and to look to the proper distribution of control commodities amongst the consumers to check malpractices in contravention of the different control order.

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

Associations and organisations of traders and merchants play a necessary and important role in the community's economic life. These associations have been formed to foster the interests of the businessmen but they cannot also ignore the interests of the consumers. There is a central organisation like Eastern Bihar Chamber of Commerce, Bhagalpur to which different types of smaller associations are affiliated. In this district growth of some trade associations is recent.

Some of the Trade Associations at Bhagalpur are listed below:—

(1) Eastern Bihar Chamber of Commerce.
(2) Cloth Merchants' Association.
(3) Cement Merchants' Association.
(4) Sugar Merchants' Association.
(5) Foodgrains Merchants' Association.
(6) Retail Cloth Dealers' Association.

Excepting Eastern Bihar Chamber of Commerce, all other associations are unregistered and do not appear to play a very important part as their membership does not cover the bulk of the traders in their lines.

Since the price control measures were enforced the importance of the Trade Associations has increased. A large number of Acts have been passed and regulations framed and it is not possible for a petty businessman to know their implications. The Associations form the link to help them in the interpretation of the law and also to guide them if they commit any breach. Such associations also take up their causes to the local officials and try to get their grievances redressed.

Eastern Bihar Chamber of Commerce.—It was founded in 1955 and was registered in 1960 under the Societies Registration Act of 1960. It has a managing committee with its Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and nineteen members. Up till now it has been able to enroll 160 members. It has been formed to safe-guard the interests of the merchants of Bhagalpur and the interests of the consumers. The members have to pay Rs. 25 annually each as membership fee. Besides, it has other financial sources such as contributions and about Rs. 20,000 are said to be collected per annum for day to day expenditure. The following are the aims and objects of this association:—

(a) To protect the general interests of the businessmen in Bhagalpur district in a legal manner.

(b) To represent or caused to be represented the business class of people of this area in the Bihar Council, Bihar Assembly, District Associations, Municipality and other Government and non-Government agencies.

(c) To consider the welfare of the members concerned, to remove unhealthy competition amongst them and to prevent cut-throat competition.

(d) To protect business of private sector and give proper suggestions to Government.

(e) To solve the points of disputes amongst the members or between members and non-members relating to business affairs.

(f) To solve or to get solved disputes relating to business labour.

Wholesale Cloth Merchants' Association.—It was formed in 1953 and has 50 members. Each member has to pay Rs. 13 per annum as membership fee. The association tries to protect the interests of wholesale cloth dealers of Bhagalpur and see to the existence of smooth relations between the wholesale and the retail merchants.

Cement Merchants' Association.—Established in 1959, it has twenty members in all. It has been formed for the protection of cement traders of Bhagalpur. The prolonged short supply of cement has led to an unsatisfactory position of cement business and a sense of misunderstanding among the consumers. The Association tries to prevent cut-throat competition, to promote a sense of understanding amongst traders and consumers by ensuring proper supply at equitable or controlled price.

Sugar Merchants' Association.—Formed in 1960, it has twenty-five members. The association tries to solve disputes between traders and consumers and to prevent cut-throat competition.

Foodgrains Merchants' Association.—It was formed in 1944 and has about 70 members. The association tries to protect trade interests and keep the consumers satisfied. The association also watches if grains in the *mandi* are purchased by any outsider or not, to make representation to Government when it feels any difficulty or harassment from Sales Tax and Income-tax Departments and to distribute the trade advertisements amongst its members so that they may be able to learn the fluctuation of rates in the markets.

Lastly it may be mentioned that the above unregistered associations are affiliated to Eastern Bihar Chamber of Commerce, Bhagalpur.

Retail Cloth Dealers' Association.—It was formed in 1958 and has 60 members in all. The aims of this association are to protect the interests of retail cloth dealers and to promote unity and to increase their trade.

Consumers' Association.—There is no Consumers' Association in the district.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Weights and Measures are essential tools for the exchange of goods. In Bhagalpur district weights and measures of great diversities were in use. The Bihar Weights Act, 1947, came into force in the northern part of Ganga of this district in 1951. Under notification this Act received the assent of the Governor on the 29th April, 1947 and the assent was first published in the *Bihar Gazette* on the 14th May, 1947. There are two Subdivisional Inspectors of Weights and Measures, one at Bhagalpur and the other at Banka. Their duty is to verify the weights and weighing instruments used for trade purposes. They have to visit the markets and *hats* and seize unauthorised weights and seers and insist on proper weights and measures being used.

This district may broadly be divided into two parts, viz., areas where the Bihar Weights Act of 1947 was enforced and secondly areas where the Act was not enforced. The areas where no Act was enforced had no standard weights previously. In enforced areas 1 seer weight of 80 *tolas* was recognised as legal weights but in unenforced areas no such legal recognition was made. The weight in rural areas vary considerably from one part to another part. Different weights were used in various trades to sell the different commodities. In Bhagalpur vegetables and grains were sold by 101 *tolas* weight per seer, while sugar, tobacco and sweets were sold by 80 *tolas* weight.

The State Government fixes weights authorised to be used in the State when the Act is in force and these weights are called

the standard weights. The standard weight for Bhagalpur distict was recognised to be 80 *tolas* per seer.

The following weights were prevalent in the zones mentioned after the Act was enforced :—

Names of places	Weights used
Bhagalpur town	80 and 101 *tolas*.
Sultanganj	80,88 and 101 *tolas*.
Pirpainty	101 and 105 *tolas*.
Barahat	80, 101 and 105 *tolas*.
Sonhaula	80, 101 and 105 *tolas*.
Banka	80 and 101 *tolas*.
Bounsi	80 and 101 *tolas*.
Shyam Bazar	One *paila* and *dalia* equivalent to 1 seer of 101 *tolas* were in use.
Naugachhia	80 and 101 *tolas*.

The above diversities in weights created confusion and uncertainty in trade on the part of retailers. Hence to root out the confusion and uncertainty among traders the State Government of Bihar enforced Bihar Weights and Measures Enforcement Act of 1959 in the whole State of Bihar. This Act was enforced in January, 1961 in Bhagalpur district but in urban areas only. Hence with the introduction of new Act of Weights and Measures in Municipal and Notified Area Committees it was considered desirable to replace the old weights by new metric weights. According to Metric system enforced in urban areas, namely, Bhagalpur, Colgong, Banka, Naugachhia and Sultanganj the following weights have been recognised:—

1 gram
50 grams
100 grams
1,000 grams
1 kilogram=1,000 grams.
5 kilogram
10 kilogram
20 kilogram
50 kilogram
1 kilogram=86 *tolas* (1 seer and 6 *tolas*)
100 kilogram=1 quintal
10 quintal =1 metric ton.

The usual lineal measures are cubit or ***hath*** and yard or ***Guj*** which is divided into sixteen smaller units locally known as ***girahas***. The ***hath*** varies from ten to fourteen inches. In this district one yard of 36″ is in use to measure cloth.

Measures of areas are commonly based on the ***hath*** or ***guj*** but they vary from one place to another. In Nathnagar area 5×5½ ***haths*** are equal to one ***katha*** and twenty ***kathas*** are equal to one ***bigha***. In Shahkund area 7×7 ***haths*** are equal to one ***katha*** and twenty ***kathas*** are equal to one ***bigha***.

With the introduction of metric system of weights and measures the age old systems of maunds, seers and *chhattaks* and inch, foot and yard have now come to an end but not completely. This Act of 1959 has been compulsorily enforced in urban areas but some big wholesale dealers still use old weights in the markets.

For the seizure of old weights the help of police is taken and nearly 3,000 old weights have been seized in 1960. The big wholesale and retail dealers who had purchased many sets of old weights have had some difficulties to replace them by new weights. They are replacing the old weights by new weights. That is the main reason why the old weights have not been completely replaced by new weights.

It may also be mentioned that people are habituated to make sale or purchase in weights of maund, seer and *chhattaks* for hundreds of years. But with the enforcement of Metric system people are growing conscious to use the metric system. Publicity and propaganda as to the import of this system will be helpful. The Inspectors of Weights and the Metric Officer of this department have also been entrusted with this work. Publicity and propaganda are made in the markets, fairs and exhibitions, where pamphlets and posters are distributed freely. The Inspectors have been instructing *Mukhias* and others in rural areas. Training is also imparted to the staff of the Block Development Officers. The village level workers are entrusted to carry small metric weights to each village of their area and give training to villagers. One set of Metric Weights from 50 kilogram to 100 kilogram has been supplied to every block for exhibition.

Standard weights are manufactured by *bonafide* licensed dealers. They sell standard weights. There are seven dealers of this type in this district. They are at Bhagalpur town, Banka, Colgong and Sultanganj.

Occasional prosecutions are launched for breaches of the Act. It may, however, be mentioned that the weighing machines of the railway authorities are not verified. It is claimed by the railway authorities that as they work under Central Administration they do not come within the purview of State Government Act.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

Old time trade routes and Highways and Modes of Conveyance

Bhagalpur has a very important location on the river Ganga and quite well connected with Bengal and Assam from the remote past. Old records show that Bhagalpur had been a halting place for most of the military invasions of Bengal and Assam. The Delhi Kings, specially in the Moghal period usually passed through this town. Shershah's road now popularly known as Grand Trunk Road had got Delhi closer to this part of the country. Along with Monghyr, Bhagalpur controlled trade and commerce to a very great extent even when the roadways were not very developed.

Previously water traffic was much more important as this route was quite quick and definitely safer. There were more of road dacoits than river dacoits whenever the administration had gone weak. Troops, trade and commerce used to move more by the waterways than roadways. There used to be boats of different kinds and to serve different aims. The big zamindars and other rich men from Calcutta came and settled on the banks of Ganga and there are some very old houses on the bank of the Ganga in Bhagalpur town. Businessmen of Marwar and other parts of Bihar had gone to Bhagalpur by boat even before the railways were opened. During the days of the Company's trade and later rule Ganga was the principal route. The dilapidated *ghats* along the whole bank of Ganga in the Bhagalpur town offered the mooring places for the boats. The *Kothis* of the merchants naturally grew up near the bank of the river.

Bhagalpur has been, for centuries the clearing house for a great volume of trade and commerce. Bhagalpur has served a big hinter land for the south-east and west regions. The road from Patna to Bhagalpur through Bihar is a very old one and Bhagalpur is also connected to other parts of Bihar through Monghyr and Deoghar.

The hilly regions had proved an obstacle for the extension of the railway line. The history of the railways shows that the loop line of East Indian Railway terminated at Sahebganj to the east and Jamalpur in the west. Bhagalpur was not connected by railways for a pretty long time. But with the development of the road communications and trade and commerce it was found very necessary to connect Jamalpur and Sahebganj through Bhagalpur. The obstacle came from the running Jamalpur hills. But later on, with the tunnel near Jamalpur the gap was linked and Bhagalpur was put on the railway map.

The present picture of Bhagalpur from communication point of view is that she is well linked by road, rail and water and there is also a well maintained landing ground. Since Bhagalpur the district and divisional headquarters is so well off for communications, it is only expected that the entire district should be well connected. Banka subdivision and the portion of the Sadar subdivision in the south of the Ganga have good communication. The portion of Sadar subdivision to the north of Ganga is a riverine and low tract and with poor communication.

Francis Buchanan's "An Account of the District of Bhagalpur in 1810-11" gives scattered reference to old time trade routes. He found the river to be the main trade channel and different types of boats were in use, even on the banks of the great rivers the natives possess "many fewer boats". It is further mentioned that "the ulaks are the boats most commonly employed in the transportation of goods; and are in general small, none exceeding 1,700 *mans*, and most being under 800. The *Patelas* are rather fewer in number than the ulaks".

"The hire of these two descriptions of boats from Mungger to Calcutta, when the whole channel of the Bhagirathi is navigable, is from 10 to 14 R. for the 100 *mans* burthen, reckoned by the quantity of grain which the boat might carry." "The distance is about 300 miles." In the eastern parts of the district some boats of large dimensions were used, during the floods, to convey firewood.

Both men and boats were difficult to procure, although many of the boats were professionally kept for hire and the office of *Ghat Majhi* there as elsewhere, were required to be regulated. So it was difficult to procure boats and that at Kumarganj almost all the trade with Monghyr and Bhagalpur was carried on by means of carts or oxen, although it stood on the bank of the river about half way between the two places. Canoes were not much used, except in the eastern parts of the district, and in the inundated parts further west the people were much confined during the floods, generally with no means of escape.

It is mentioned that the greater part of the internal commerce of the district was carried on by carts, and back loads; but the roads were exceedingly bad. By far the most frequented and important road in Bengal, leading from Calcutta to Patna *via* Murshidabad, passed through the whole length of the district; but for two to three months every year, it was not negotiable by any sort of carriage, or even with loaded cattle; and, even at other seasons, a four-wheeled carriage or wagons could pass with much difficulty and some danger. There was in particular a great deficiency of bridges, and the descents into many of the creeks was so steep as to impede the passage of carts and to diminish their

load. In many parts there was an abundance of hard materials, with which permanent roads might be made; but, as in other parts those materials were too remote to be used. To the south of Bhagalpur there was a considerable extent of very low land, through which a road could only be made by raising the level, and it was impassable for more than four months in the year, and all commerce with interior was completely at a stand still.

It is mentioned that Mr. Christian, an Indigo planter had constructed a road, better than any in the district, from his factory in Chandan to the river side near Suryagarha.

It is further mentioned that near the Ganga many carts were kept for hire, and received 4½ annas a day including ½ anna given for the driver's food. The little rude carts in the forests were exceedingly convenient as they could go on almost any road. The *Beldiya* or *Ladubeparies* were numerous and had many cattle which they were willing to let on hire, when they had no speculation in view, and their cattle were very good. Porters were only used to unload boats, or to convey passengers' baggage. In every part of the district there was the usual difficulty in procuring conveyance of any kind. On the great river a good deal of attention was paid to establish proper ferries and the boats were very good and safe conveyances. On the more important ferries on the great river little attention was paid by the police, and most of the *Dingis* were of the *Pateli* construction and were exceedingly unsafe on such a river. The boatmen were appointed by the Zamindars, who annually received a rent given under the name of *Salami*.

Regarding the modes of conveyance the last District Gazetteer by J. Byrne, I.C.S., published in 1911 has mentioned as follows :—

> "There are no special features about the conveyances in common use in Bhagalpur. Bullock carts of various more or less glorified types and pack-ponies do most of the business of the interior. The pony *ekka* is in common use and surprising distances can be covered by these weedy ponies drawing this very primitive and extremely uncomfortable vehicle.
>
> "Palanquins of various sorts are used but not as much as formerly, owing to the extension of roads."

Due to the lapse of time since Buchanan's days (1810-11) and Byrne's days (1911) there have been fundamental changes in Bhagalpur district. So the observation of Buchanan does not hold good now. Buchanan has mentioned only about boats and bullock carts as a means of transport, but there have been great changes now. The chief means of transport other than rail transport in the

district are steamers, boats, State and private buses, trucks and bullock carts. Taxis and cycle rickshaws are also available at Bhagalpur and some of the urban areas. Light vehicles drawn by a single horse known as *tamtam* are on the decline. Cycles have become very common.

A good number of bus services south of the river Ganga have been nationalised and State buses ply. As a good number of roads have been improved and bridges provided a large number of mechanised goods transport-vehicles have come into use. Bullock carts and *tamtams* still remain the main conveyances in the villages. There is now no restriction for them against using the highways.

Regarding roads "A Statistical Account of Bengal Vol. XIV, 1877" by W. W. Hunter, has mentioned as follows*:—

> "There are no metalled roads north of the Ganges. On the south of the river those maintained are :—(1) The Birbhum road from part of the second mile to part of the forty-second mile, 40 miles and 1,360 feet long within Bhagalpur district; 34 miles actually metalled; bridged in part, 120 bridges having been completed in 1875. The road commences from the boundary of the Bhagalpur Municipality and ends at Suri; its total length is 103 miles. (2) Sultanganj road, 3 miles long; 1 mile and 120 feet actually metalled, with eight bridges, of which three are wooden and the rest masonry. (3) Road from the river Ganges at Sultanganj to railway station at Sultanganj, 1 mile long; metalled throughout, and having five masonry bridges. (4) Ghoga road commencing from the Ghoga bazar and ending at the railway station of Ghoga, three-quarters of a mile long; half the road metalled. Total length of metalled roads, about 36¼ miles"......................

> "On the south of the Ganges, the raised and bridged but unmetalled roads are :—(23) Road from Katuriya to Simaltala railway station, on the Chord line of the East Indian Railway, 10 miles and 5,040 feet long, within Bhagalpur district. (24) Banka station road, about 2 miles in length. (25) Road from Banka to Umarpur *via* Saispur, 11 miles long; the earthwork and bridges of only 1 mile and 2,980 feet from Banka Police-Station to the River Abni have been completed; the rest of the road is little better than a wheel track and a new line will have to be adopted. (26) Road commencing at Baunsi and ending at Jaipur, 20 miles long; this road branches off at the thirty-first mile of the Baunsi road near Baunsi, and passing through Jaipur leads to Deoghar. The earthwork and bridges of 1 mile

*Road nos. 5—22, 33 and 39—48 given in Hunter's "*A Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol. XIV, 1877" have been omitted here because they are now in Saharsa district.

and 2,420 feet, near the village of Augara, were constructed some years ago; the rest of the road, running through jungle country, does not require raising. It must, however, be bridged at places. (27) A road is all but completed from Banka to Katuriya, about 17 miles long. (28) Road from Champanala to Ghorghat, commencing from the west of Bhagalpur and ending at Ghorghat, 18 miles long; about 4 miles of this end west of Kumarganj and 1 masonry bridge have been carried away by the Ganges; this is the main road to Monghyr. (29) Road commencing from the eastern limits of the Bhagalpur Municipality and ending at Pirpainty railway station, 33 miles; about 2 miles have been cut away by the Ganges between Bhagalpur and Ghoga. (30) Road commencing at a place south of Tiwari *Talao*, outside the limits of the town of Bhagalpur and ending at Umarpur, 16 miles long. (31) Road from Pirpainty bazar to Pirpainty railway station, 3 miles long. (32) Behadurpur and Subor Road, commencing at Fathipur and ending at Subor, 2 miles long. The total length of unmetalled roads, 338 miles.

"The following roads, raised but unmetalled and unbridged, though not so important as the foregoing, are yet much used. They are on the north of Ganges.—......(34) Road from Moizima *via* Narayanpur and Bikrampur to Narkatia, 5 miles. (35) Road from Narayanpur towards Sonbarsa, 3 miles. On the south of the Ganges there are :—(36) Road from Dhuria to Colgong, 18 miles. (37) Road from Pirpainty to Barahat, 6 miles; still only partially constructed. (38) Road from Baunsi to Dhuria, total length, 15½ miles; one portion, 1½ miles in length, is left incomplete on account of its passing through an unworkable sandy soil. Total length of raised but unmetalled and unbridged roads, 52 miles.

"The following are neither raised, nor bridged, nor metalled. They are little better than cart tracks-trade routes marked out in the cold weather, to disappear each year during the ensuing rains............On the south of the Ganges :—(49) Road from Banka to Baunsi, 10 miles. (50) Road from Chandan to Katuriya, 15 miles; this road passes through thick jungle, and in some places is very good. It is also important, as all the pilgrims from Monghyr district to Baidyanath pass along it. (51) Road from Katuriya to Belhar, 16 miles; it is continued through Belhar to Monghyr town, *via* Kharakpur. (52) Road from Banka to Jaipur, 20 miles. (53) Road from Mudhai to Putia, 13 miles; passable only in dry weather. (54) Road from Dhuria to Bhagalpur, 16 miles. (55) Road from Umarpur to Kherhi

and Shahkund, 12 miles. (56) Road from Colgong to Barahat, 10 miles. (57) Road from Ghoga to Bhiria, 8 miles. (58) Road from Bhagalpur to Shahkund, 10 miles"..........

Regarding roads the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) mentions:—"There are now about 64 miles of metalled roads, 1,685 of unmetalled roads and 40 miles of village roads maintained in this district. This mileage works out at 2.4 lineal miles per square mile. There is in addition a perfect net work of village tracks that are not maintained from local funds. In 1874 there were only 36 miles of metalled roads and 641 of unmetalled roads maintained.

"The most important road on the south of the Ganges is the Birbhum road which runs almost due South from Bhagalpur town *via* Baunsi to Suri. About 42 miles of it lie in this district. The remaining metalled roads are only short lengths, e.g. that from the Central Jail *via* Nathnagar to Champanala, a distance of six miles; from Sultanganj to the Monghyr boundary, three miles. and from Dhaka to the Chandan river (three and a half miles) on the Dhaka-Simultala road.

"Other trunk routes on the south of the Ganges are Bhagalpur to Banka, Banka to Simultala, Banka to Jaipur, Ghoga to Baunsi, Banka to Sagrampur; also the main routes west from Bhagalpur to Monghyr, and east to Sahebganj *via* Pirpainty."

It is mentioned in the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) that there were no metalled roads in the north of Bhagalpur. There were roads no doubt but the important roads have now gone in the district of Saharsa.

The condition of the communications of the district was described in the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Bhagalpur (1902---10) by P. W. Murphy, I.C.S. Most of the information in this report has been reproduced in the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur published in 1911. According to the Survey and Settlement Report of 1902--10 the total mileage of roads in the district was 1,799 miles. They were classified as follows :—

Class of road	Description	Length in miles
Metalled roads ..	IA—Bridged and drained throughout ..	24
	IB—Partially bridged and drained ..	42
Unmetalled roads ..	IIA—Bridged and drained throughout ..	165
	IIB—Partially bridged and drained ..	392
	III—Banked but not surfaced, partially bridged and drained.	344
	IV—Cleared, partially bridged and drained	371
	V—Cleared only	461
	Total mileage ..	1,799

Thus, the mileage worked out at two miles of road to every five square miles of area.

ROADS NOW

The roads are now classified as Public Works Department roads, District Board roads and village roads.

The Public Works Department roads in Bhagalpur district lying to the south of the Ganga are under the jurisdiction of Public Works Division, Bhagalpur, while those to the north of the Ganga are under the Executive Engineer, Khagaria Division. The total mileage of these roads to the south of the Ganga including the temporary National Highways of Bhagalpur-Hansdiha road (43 miles) and Bhagalpur-Colgong road (19 miles) is 229.5 miles. Of these 157.5 miles (including the 62 miles of temporary National Highways) are pitched. The total mileage of Public Works Department roads is 39.5 miles in this district to the north of the Ganga. The details are given below :—

South of the Ganga

Name of Road.	Classification.	Mileage.	Mileage of pitched roads.	Approved cost in lakhs.
1	2	3	4	5
1. Bhagalpur-Sultanganj-Ghorghat Road.	State Highway ..	21.5	21.5	12,60,000
2. Akbarnagar-Shahkund Road.	Ditto ..	6	6	6,58,300
3. Sultanganj-Tarapur Road.	Ditto ..	3	3	5,89,200
4. Amarpur-Shambhuganj Road.	Ditto ..	15	Nil	18,06,840
5. Shambhuganj-Asarganj Road.	Ditto ..	5	Nil	4,35,000
6. Banka-Katoria Road ..	Ditto ..	20	17	12,75,400
7. Jagdishpur-Sonhaula Road	Ditto ..	12	Nil	17,70,000
8. Amarpur-Banka Road	Ditto ..	12	12	12,12,800
9. Dhakamore-Banka Road	Ditto ..	5	5	3,31,600
10. Barahat-Panjwara Road	Ditto ..	6	Nil	17,20,000

Name of Road.	Classification.	Mileage.	Mileage of pitched roads.	Approved cost in lakhs.
1	2	3	4	5
11. Bhagalpur-Hansdiha Road.	Temporary National Highway.	43	43	..
12. Bhagalpur-Colgong Road	Ditto	19	19	3,10·900
13. Ghoga-Sonhaula Road	State Highway ..	10	10	7,63,500
14. Godda-Pirpainty Road	Ditto ..	9	9	12,51,000
15. Bhagalpur--Agarpur Kotwali Road.	Ditto ..	12	Nil	9,78,000
16. Colgong-Pirpainty-Mirza chowki-Sahebganj Road.	Ditto ..	18	Nil	28,00,000
17. Sultanganj ghat Road linking Tarapur Road.	Ditto ..	1	1	1,31,000
18. Amarpur-Shahkund Road.	Ditto ..	12	11	8,64,000
	Total ..	229.5	157.5	

N.B.—Improvements work on serials 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 15, 16 are in progress in 1961.

North of the Ganga

	Miles	Furlongs	Yards.
1. Thana Bihour to Ghaghrighat	6	4	..
2. Naugachhia to Colgong ghat *via* Gosaingaon and Gopalpur.	12	6	141
3. From Junction of Bihpur-Birpur road to Gosaingaon.	13	..	..
4. Kataria to Tintanga	7	1	113
Total ..	39	4	34

1. *Bhagalpur-Sultanganj-Ghorghat Road.*—This road connects Bhagalpur with Monghyr district and passes through Sultanganj an important business place. It is a metalled road. The old

bridge over river Gangania is being replaced by a new R. C. bridge, which is in progress.

2. *Akbarnagar-Shahkund Road.*—This road connects Akbarnagar with Shahkund and is a metalled road. The weak bridge falling on this road has been replaced by a screwpile bridge which has already been opened to traffic.

3. *Sultanganj-Tarapur Road.*—This road connects Sultanganj with Tarapur, an important business centre in Monghyr district. A part of it falls under the Bhagalpur division and the rest falls under Monghyr Public Works Division. Three weak bridges falling under the jurisdiction of the Bhagalpur division have been replaced by screwpile bridges.

4. *Amarpur-Shambhuganj Road.*—This road connects Banka Subdivisional Headquarters with Shambhuganj. The work has been taken up for the last two years and is under progress.

5. *Shambhuganj-Asarganj Road.*—The construction of this road will connect Asarganj with Banka and Bhagalpur Subdivisional Headquarters. The road is under construction and is expected to be completed within a year.

6. *Banka-Katoria Road.*—This road will connect the inaccessible portion of the district as there is neither road nor railways in this area. Out of 12 miles about 11 miles of the road has already been pitched and the remaining 1 mile is expected to be completed within this year.

7. *Jagdishpur-Sonhaula Road.*—This road will connect Sonhaula with Jagdishpur, which is an important business place. The work of the construction of the road has been taken up last year and is in progress.

8. *Amarpur-Banka Road.*—This is a pitched road and it connects Banka Subdivisional Headquarters with Amarpur, an important business place of Bhagalpur district. All the construction works on this road have already been completed.

9. *Dhakamore-Banka Road.*—This road connects Banka with Bhagalpur, Dumka, Deoghar and other important subdivisional headquarters of Santhal Parganas. This is a pitched road.

10. *Barahat-Panjwara Road.*—The construction of this road has been taken up last year. This road will connect the important subdivisional and district headquarters of Bhagalpur and Dumka with Godda subdivision.

11. *Bhagalpur-Hansdiha Road.*—This road connects Bhagalpur district with other districts like Monghyr, Santhal Parganas, Hazaribagh, etc. This is a temporary National Highway and is considered to be one of the most important roads under Bhagalpur division. This is a pitched road.

12. *Bhagalpur-Colgong Road.*—This road connects Colgong with Bhagalpur and is a temporary National Highway. The road has got a great importance as it will connect Bhagalpur with all the other districts of the State when the road between Colgong to Sahebganj will be completed.

13. *Ghogha-Sonhaula Road.*—The construction of the road has already been completed and is a pitched road.

14. *Godda-Pirpainty Road.*—Only 9 miles of the road falling under Bhagalpur district are under this division and the rest are under Deoghar division. The portion falling under this division has already been completed. This road connects Pirpainty an important business place with other districts. This is a pitched road.

15. *Bhagalpur-Agarpur-Kotwali Road.*—This road will connect Bhagalpur with Kotwali; a place where there is no other transport facility. The construction of this road has been taken up and is in progress.

16. *Colgong-Pirpainty-Mirzachowki-Sahebganj Road.*—The construction of this road has been taken up in 1960 and is in rapid progress. This road connects Bhagalpur district with Santhal Parganas and has great importance as this will facilitate the transport of goods mainly stone materials from Mirzachowki hills to other parts of the State.

17. *Sultanganj-Ghat Road linking Tarapur Road.*—The length of the road is only one mile which leads to the temple known as Ajgaibinath and connects the Sultanganj Ghat with Tarapur Road. The construction work is almost complete.

18. *Amarpur-Shahkund Road.*—The construction of the road has been completed and is a pitched road. This road connects Amarpur with Shahkund.

District Board Roads

There are 19 roads under the District Board, Bhagalpur of the total mileage of 224 miles of which 16 miles are metalled, 62 miles are gravelled and 146 miles *kachcha*. There are 81 roads under

the Sadar Local Board totalling 372 miles in length of which 6 miles are metalled and 36 miles *kachcha*. There are 57 roads under the Banka Local Board of a total length of 316 miles all *kachcha*.

The roads of the District Board are as follows :—

	Miles.	Furlongs.	Yards.
1. Bhagalpur to Amarpur	16	..	203
2. Barari School *via* Barari Railway station to Gangabagh.	1	..	40
3. Bhagalpur Judge's court	..	2	74
4. Dhaka to Chhakai	15	6	113
5. Ghogha Bazar to Bounsi	20	7	110
6. Banka to Belhar	24	..	..
7. Banka to Santhal Parganas	26	5	87
8. Gannoul to Tintanga	6	4	..
9. Mahadeopur Ghat to Gajai Ghat	12	2	190
10. Panjwara village road	1	2	..
11. Tihani approach road	..	2	127
12. Colgong to Mirza Chawki	17	5	217
13. Barahat to Panjawara with branch to Lakhpura	7	1	167
14. Dhoraya to Asarganj	21	1	25
15. Katoria to Sahebganj (Babrar)	16	6	..
16. Katoria to Dandmara (Deoghur side) ..	15	2	33
17. Bounsi to Lachmipur	14	..	..
18. Mahdhma to Pokharia	4	2	..
19. Barahat to Naraiopur	3	..	..
Total ..	224	3	66

The expenditure by the District Board on road on original works in 1959-60 was Rs. 1,14,056 on *pucca* roads and Rs. 9,988 on *kachcha* roads and on repairs Rs. 49,488.

Municipal Roads

The Municipalities of Bhagalpur and Colgong maintain roads in their own municipal areas.

Bhagalpur Municipality.—The Bhagalpur Municipality maintains 34.76 miles of *pucca* roads and 32.291 miles of *kachcha* roads. Of the *pucca* roads 3.456 miles are cement concrete paved roads, 3.475 miles are stone slab paved, 0.598 mile brick paved roads and the rest are bituminous stone metalled roads. The expenditure for the maintenance of the roads is Rs. 1,50,000 for the *pucca* roads and Rs. 8,000 for *kachcha* roads.

Colgong Municipality.—The Colgong Municipality maintains 4½ miles of *pucca* roads and 3.01 miles of *kachcha* roads. Of the *pucca* roads 1½ miles are cement concrete paved roads and 3 miles are pitched roads.

Village-Roads

About 688 miles of the village roads are maintained by the Local Boards. Since the starting of the *Gram Panchayats* construction of roads in the villages has been taken up by some of the *Panchayats*. The total length of roads made by the *Gram Panchayat* is not known. There are also a certain length of village-roads in big villages where the Katcharies of big zamindars existed or where some influential men lived at one time. Every village has a certain length of track within the village habitation but the condition of the tracks is such that they could hardly be called roads. Considering that the district has got 2,291 villages according to 1951 Census the length of village roads is absolutely negligible and their condition miserable. It is such that even a bullock cart cannot reach the door of every household. In the rainy season it becomes a problem to go out of the village.

Very few villages are connected with the main public road. Villages are mostly ill served with roads excepting the fortunate ones that are located by the side of the public roads. The Community Projects and National Extension Service Administration are intensely concentrating on village roads construction by enlisting public co-operation.

Vehicles and Conveyances

The importance of bullock carts is decreasing due to the development of motor trucks and bus services. But still they are indispensable in places where trucks cannot go and where goods to be carried fall far below the carrying capacity of trucks. The only improvement noticeable in bullock carts is the use of rubber tyred wheels in place of iron tyred wheels. But the number of such improved type of bullock carts is negligible. During the rainy season these bullock carts have a covering of rain-proof frames of bamboos and matting.

The number of bicycles is increasing rapidly. Even the hawkers, milkmen and washermen generally use cycles for carrying their wares. It is considered as a poor man's car.

Another mode of conveyance is a two-wheeled vehicle drawn by one horse and is usually called *tamtam*. *Ghora Gari* is also used but its use is declining in favour of cycle rickshaws, *tamtams* and taxis.

The number of registered carts and non-mechanised vehicles for the year 1959-60 was as follows :—Bullock carts 3,916, cycles 724, cycle rickshaws 1,102, first class *tamtams* 71, second class *tamtams* 151 and hackney carriages 6.

The number of cycles is believed to be approximately 2,000 in the district but census of these has not been taken.

Public Transport

With the introduction of buses, trucks and motor cars, a great change has occurred in the mode of transport. The old means of transport by vehicles drawn by animals is being replaced by these motor vehicles, for the latter are more swift and can carry heavier loads. The only thing that stands in the way of their universal use in the district is the high cost price and maintenance charge.

Buses which can carry a much larger number of passengers and in much shorter time than bullock carts, or *tamtams*, are being used in greater number and frequently on roads. With the improvement of roads the number of routes by State owned buses goes on increasing. Inter-district buses are also plying in this district. The average number of travellers who travel on motor vehicle under this district is about 4,000 per day. The main routes covered by buses are as follows :—

Services whose both ends fall within Bhagalpur District

Permits held by Bihar State Road Transport Corporation

Names of the routes—

(1) Bhagalpur town services.
(2) Bhagalpur-Banka *via* Jagdishpur.
(3) Sultanganj-Khesar *via* Shambhuganj.
(4) Bhagalpur-Banka *via* Akbarnagar-Shahkund.
(5) Bhagalpur-Amarpur.
(6) Sultanganj-Bhagalpur.

Permits held by Private Operators

Names of the routes—

(1) Bhagalpur-Dhoraiya *via* Nawada.
(2) Bhagalpur-Barahat.
(3) Bhagalpur-Majhouni *via* Punsia.
(4) Bhagalpur-Sajaur *via* Kajraili.
(5) Bhagalpur-Kashpur *via* Amarpur.
(6) Bhagalpur-Bharko *via* Amarpur.
(7) Bhagalpur-Kehnichak *via* Amarpur.
(8) Bhagalpur-Bhitiya *via* Amarpur.
(9) Bhagalpur-Khesar *via* Amarpur.
(10) Bhagalpur-Banka *via* Amarpur.
(11) Banka-Belhar *via* Bhitiya.
(12) Banka-Shambhuganj *via* Khesar.
(13) Ghogha-Sonhaula.
(14) Ghogha-Bounsi *via* Sonhaula-Dhoraiya.
(15) Ghogha-Dhakamore *via* Dhoraiya-Punsia.
(16) Tintanga-Naugachhia.
(17) Tintanga-Narainpur.

Services whose one end falls within Bhagalpur district and other end in another district

Permit held by Bihar State Road Transport Corporation

Names of the routes—

(1) Bhagalpur-Godda *via* Hansdiha.
(2) Bhagalpur-Dumka.
(3) Bhagalpur-Deoghar *via* Hansdiha.
(4) Bhagalpur-Monghyr.
(5) Monghyr-Sangrampur *via* Sultanganj.
(6) Sultanganj-Tarapur.
(7) Bhagalpur-Jamui.
(8) Bhagalpur-Tarapur *via* Sultanganj.
(9) Bhagalpur-Sahebganj bazar *via* Sultanganj.
(10) Sultanganj-Belhar *via* Tarapur.
(11) Bhagalpur-Belhar *via* Sultanganj.
(12) Bhagalpur-Basukinath.

Permits held by Private Operators

Names of the routes—

(1) Bhagalpur-Hanmara *via* Jagdishpur-Sonhaula.
(2) Bhagalpur-Mahagama *via* Jagdishpur-Sonhaula.
(3) Bhagalpur-Godda *via* Panjwara.

(4) Bhagalpur-Mahagama *via* Panjwara-Godda.
(5) Bhagalpur-Godda *via* Panjwara and *via* Hansdiha in rains.
(6) Bhagalpur-Hanmara *via* Panjwara and *via* Hansdiha in rains.
(7) Bhagalpur-Basantrai *via* Panjwara.
(8) Bhagalpur-Sarounihat *via* Panjwara and *via* Hansdiha in rains.
(9) Bhagalpur-Litipara *via* Panjwara and Godda.
(10) Bhagalpur-Hiranpur *via* Panjwara and Godda.
(11) Bhagalpur-Gorsanda *via* Punsia and Dhoraiya.
(12) Bhagalpur-Deoghar *via* Chanan Katoria.
(13) Bhagalpur-Sangrampur *via* Banka.
(14) Bhagalpur-Deoghar *via* Amarpur, Bhaika and Sahebganj.
(15) Banka-Deoghar *via* Katoria.
(16) Bhagalpur-Basukinath *via* Nonihat and *via* Mahero in rains.
(17) Basukinath-Bounsi.
(18) Belhar-Deoghar *via* Sahebganj-Katoria.
(19) Ghogha-Deoghar *via* Bounsi, Jaipur and Jamdaha.
(20) Godda-Pirpainti.
(21) Dumka-Pirpainti.
(22) Banka-Deoghar *via* Jamdaha-Jaipur-Rikhiya.

Truck services are also increasing rapidly for carrying village produce and stone used in road construction. The number of registered Public Carrier Trucks in 1961 is 221 but this does not mean that only 221 trucks are plying in this district. A large number of trucks registered in other districts and other States are constantly running through this district. The average tonnage of goods carried by trucks is about 11 to 12 hundred tons daily in this district.

The statement showing the number of different vehicles on road for the last six years and fresh registration of motor vehicles is given beow :—

Year.	Buses.	Trucks.	Motor Cars and Jeeps.	Motor Cycles.	Auto Rickshaw.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1956	96	150	238	33	1	518
1957	191	223	311	46	Nil	771
1958	132	171	286	43	Nil	632
1959	83	173	258	40	Nil	554
1960	69	231	267	59	Nil	626
1961 up to March	87	221	321	51	Nil	680

RAILWAYS

It is worth while quoting observations on the Railways from earlier books.

P. W. Murphy in his book "Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operation in the Bhagalpur district, 1902—10" says—

"The Barauni-Katihar section of the Bengal and North-Western railway enters the district near Pasraha, and leaves it at the Kosi bridge a little to the east of Kursela station. The length of the line within the district is 24 miles. Its course is parallel to that of the Ganges at a distance of about ten miles to the north. From thana Bihpur station a branch line runs to Mahadeopur Ghat on the Ganges which is connected by steamer with Barari Ghat on the southern bank. Barari Ghat is itself connected by railway with Bhagalpur. In addition to the passenger ferry, there is a goods ferry at this Ghat. Trucks containing goods are taken bodily over the river and replaced on the rails on the other side".

"The loop line branch of the East Indian Railway enters the district near Mirza Chauki and following the southern bank of the Ganges leaves it beyond Sultanganj-a distance of 60 miles.

"A railway from Bhagalpur to Bausi, a distance of about 30 miles due south, is at present under construction. This line was begun in 1906, but the work was abandoned for a year and was resumed in 1908. When completed, it will be of great utility to the south of the district.*

"The total length of railway line in the district (excluding that under construction) is 166 miles."

J. Byrne, I.C.S. in the *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur,* published in 1911 writes :—

"The East Indian Railway was extended to Bhagalpur very early in the sixties. This line along side the river—now known as loop line—was laid much earlier than the chord line from Lakhisarai to Khana which just touches the extreme south-west corner of the district, near Baidyanath Junction. The line parallel to the river is about sixty miles long. The chief railway stations on it, beginning at the western boundary, are Sultanganj, Bhagalpur town, Sabaur, Ghogha, Colgong and Pirpainti. A branch line

*For the later history of Bhagalpur-Bausi line see later (P.C.R.C.).

from Bhagalpur to Bausi is under construction. It is probable that it will be continued to Deoghur on one side and to Naya Dumka and Suri on the other. With the completion of this line, the southern part of the district will be very well served by the railway.

"A branch line on the metre gauge has recently been constructed by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company from Bhagalpur town *via* Bhagalpur Kachahri to Barari Ghat. A wagon ferry plies between this Ghat and Mahadevpur Ghat on the northern bank of the Ganges, and this connects Bhagalpur directly with the whole of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company's system north of the Ganges."

"There are no special engineering features to note except the Kosi bridge. This bridge between Katarea and Kursela, consisting of 15 spans with a waterway of about 1,100 yards, crosses the only outlet for the drainage of a huge extent of country."

N.E. Railway (metre gauge)

On the North-Eastern Railway there are five railway stations on the main line running from west to east. They are Narainpur, Thana Bihpur, Kharik, Naugachhia and Kataria railway stations. From Thana Bihpur a branch line runs to the Ganga and has the two railway stations, viz., Lattipur and Mahadeopur Ghat on it. The N.E. Railway's (metre gauge) ferry steamer plies between Mahadeopur Ghat and Barari Ghat on the opposite bank of the river. To the south of the Ganga, N.E. Railway (metre gauge) runs from Barari Ghat to Bhagalpur and has the following railway stations on it :—Barari Ghat, Bhagalpur Kutchery and Bhagalpur Junction. The distance between Thana Bihpur and Bhagalpur is calculated as 62 Kilometre. The importance of the branch line from Thana Bihpur Junction to Bhagalpur Junction lies in the fact that it connects South Bihar with North Bhagalpur, Saharsa and Purnea districts, and is one of the arteries of communication between North and South Bihar.

Eastern Railway (broad gauge)

The portion of the loop line of South-Eastern Railway between the stations Ganganía and Pirpainti lies in the district of Bhagalpur and has the following railway stations on this portion running from west to east :—Ganganía, Sultanganj, Akbarnagar, Murarpur, Nathnagar, Bhagalpur Junction, Sabour, Ghogha, Colgong, Shivanarainpur and Pirpainti. It has two halts also, viz., Ekchari and Mahesi.

From Bhagalpur Junction a broad gauge branch line runs southwards to Mandar Hill railway station. This branch line has the following railway stations :—Bhagalpur, Hatpuraini, Tikani, Dhauni, Barahat, Panjwara Road and Mandar Hill railway stations. It has four halts also, viz., Koilikhulaha, Ganidham, Punsia and Mandar Vidyapith. Mandar Hill railway station is the terminus of this branch line. The Mandar Hill branch line commonly known as Bhagalpur-Bousi line was closed for traffic during the Second World War, but started functioning in 1954. The length of this line is about 31 miles.

The importance of Mandar Hill branch line lies in the fact that it serves Mandar Hills, a place of pilgrimage not only for Jains but other communities as well and it also serves the big grain market of Barahat and cattle market at Hat Puraini. It also serves the *mela* at Bousi (just near Mandar Hills) which lasts for about a month.

Role of railways in the economic life of the district

Both the railways, that is, Eastern Railway (broad gauge) and North-Eastern Railway (metre gauge) as stated above serve the district. They transport the following things inside and outside the district.

They are :—Mangoes, Rice, Maize, Timber, Molasses, *Tussar*, *Dal*, Silk, Handloom products, Blankets, Carpets and Trunks. Cattle are transported from Katoria and Puraini villages. There are also hills in the district, where slate stone is found in abundance.

Passengers and goods traffic

The outward and inward traffic of goods and passengers dealt with at Bhagalpur station *via* both North-Eastern and Eastern railways is given below which will show the volume of traffic handled :—

N. E. Railway—

Parcel Traffic

	Total weight of parcels forwarded in Kg.	Total weight of parcels received in Kg.
1960-61	9,54,396	8,37,270
Daily average	2,064	2,214

Passengers

	Number of outward passengers.	Number of inward passengers.
1960-61	1,52,049	1,07,100
Daily average	417	296

Goods

	Total weight of goods forwarded in Kg.	Total weight of goods received in Kg.
1960-61	2,27,81,900	Not available.
Daily average	62,169	Not available.

Eastern Railway—

Parcel Traffic

	Outward in Kg.	Inward in Kg.
1960	58,091	1,00,577
Daily average	159	278

Passengers

	Number of outward passengers.	Number of inward passengers.
1960	13,09,483	85,000
Daily average	3,758	236

Goods

	Outward in Kg.	Inward in Kg.
1960	1,15,67,900	1,09,02,300
Daily average	31,506	29,788

Outward goods and parcel traffic consist mainly of grain, soap, iron goods, petroleum products, mangoes, hides and skin and *tussar* cloth and inward traffic consists of sugar, timber, empty drums, turmeric, molasses and mill cloth.

The outward traffic in grain and hides and skin is mainly directed to Calcutta and the other stations of Bengal and Bihar. There is also a large traffic to places within the district.

RAIL-ROAD COMPETITION AND REGULATION OF TRANSPORT

The railways are not adequate to handle all the passengers and goods to the different parts of the district and beyond and, therefore, the importance of roads is in no way less. The following zones have parallel rail and road connections :—

East of Bhagalpur.—Bhagalpur-Sabour-Colgong-Ghogha-Sonouhla-Sheonarainpur-Pirpainti.

West of Bhagalpur.—Bhagalpur-Nathnagar-Akbarnagar-Sultanganj.

South of Bhagalpur.—Bhagalpur-Jagdishpur-Punsia-Dhakamore-Barahat-Bousi.

North of Bhagalpur but South of the Ganga.—Bhagalpur-Barari.

North of the river Ganga.—(1) Tintanga-Naugachhia and (2) Tintanga-Narainpur.

The goods carried by trucks are mainly goats, hides and skin, stone slabs, and stone metal, on the outward journey. On the inward journey they carry light parcels, mill-made cloth, *biri* leaves, tobacco and forest produce excluding timber.

The railways generally carry goods too heavy for carriage by trucks. They also carry such small parcels as answer books which are never carried by trucks as well as long journey parcels. Fish, Vegetables, Fruits and other perishable goods are sent both by trucks and railways.

There is a keen competition between rail and road transport between places connected both by railways and good roads, for transport by trucks is much quicker with less loss of time than by rail. It will not be incorrect to mention that the apathy and delay in the handling of goods by the railways had given an encouragement to the development of roadways and truck traffic. Since last one decade there has been an enormous expansion of the roads wthin the district and beyond and this had ed to an increase in the number of the trucks. There are a number of regular truck services with headquarters in Calcutta and Delhi that will reach any consignment to the destination within a short time. It has been humourously observed that these truck drivers drink like fish, drive like devil but they deliver the goods. Mangoes from Bhagalpur were being transported to Calcutta by trucks quicker than the parcel express train and at a much cheaper cost. The delay in booking parcels at the railway station and the incidental troubles partially encourage the business to patronise the trucks. All these have forced the railway administration to reduce the freight and to run an express parcel service.

The railways have their own difficulty as the wagons are limited and the railway tracks have to be used within restrictions owing to the other trains. The roads are there for twenty-four hours' use. The rail road competition is not keen. In a way it may be said that there is ample scope for both railways and roadways to handle traffic, goods and passengers. The over crowding of the passenger trains and the buses in the zones where both systems run indicate that there is ample room for both the systems and possibility of a healthy competition.

WATERWAYS AND FERRIES.

The Ganga which passes through this district from east to west is navigable throughout the year by steamers and large country boats. As this river since earliest time was used for commercial purposes, many important towns grew up on its bank. Such towns are Sultanganj, Bhagalpur and Colgong. *The District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur*, published in 1911 says, "The first steamer that plied on the Ganges came up from Calcutta about 1828". There used to be a regular steamer service of the I.G.N. and R. S. N. Company Limited between Buxar and Calcutta, touching the *ghats* of Sultanganj, Barari and Colgong in Bhagalpur District and passengers and merchandise used to be transported to the various steamer stations in Assam, both Bengal, Bihar and U.P. But in 1957 the Company closed down this steamer service on the ground that it has ceased to be an economic proposition. The closure of this regular steamer service has given a great blow to both passenger and goods traffic to and from this district. Besides the North-Eastern Railway Steamer Service between Barari *Ghat* and Mahadeopur *Ghat*, there are two private steamer services for passenger and goods traffic from the one bank of the Ganga to the other. These ferries are situated at Sultanganj and at Bhagalpur.

Country boats of different carrying capacity ply on the Ganga and to some distance on the river Kosi also.

The details of the major and minor ferries are given in the following chart :--

Serial no.	Names of Ghats (Ferries).	Trade carried.	Number of boats.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
1	Tiljuga ghat..			
	(a) Sesnam ghat	Passengers, food-grains and other commodities (all seasons).	4	District Board Ferries.
	(b) Kundi ghat			
	(c) Burhna ghat			
	(d) Belbarwa ghat	.. ...		
2	Sahora ghat ..	.. All seasons ..	4	
3	Andhari ghat	.. During rain ..	2	
4	Mohanpur Ghughtta	.. Ditto ..	2	

Serial no.	Names of Ghats (Ferries).	Trade carried.	Number of boats.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
5	Sultanganj Steamer Ferry—	All seasons ..	13 boats and 1 steamer.	Public ferry.
	(a) Sahpur ghat ..			
	(b) Mirjapur ghat ..			
	(c) Dudhaila Nala ghat ..			
	(d) Shahabad ghat ..			
	(e) Sultanganj ghat ..			
	(f) Gangania ghat ..			
	(g) Markaha ghat ..			
	(h) Rannochak Asouta ghat			
	(i) Agwani ghat ..			
	(j) Ajgaibi Nath ghat ..			
6	Bhagalpur Station Ferry—	All seasons ..	12 boats and 1 steamer.	Public ferry.
	(a) Dudhaila ghat ..			
	(b) Sonbarsa ghat ..			
	(c) Jamaldepur ghat ..			
	(d) Narkatta ghat ..			
	(e) Kasi Koriya ghat ..			
	(f) Satti Chaura ghat ..			
	(g) Mahadeopur ghat ..			
	(h) Parhatta ghat ..			
	(i) Lachamipur ghat ..			
	(j) Gossani gown ghat ..			
	(k) Barari ghat ..			
	Adampur ghat ..			
7	Ghagha Nala ghat ..	All seasons ..	2	P. W. D. Ferries.
8	Koa Nala ghat	Ditto ..	2	
9	Trimuhan ghat ..	Ditto ..	2	
10	Raj ghat ferry, Colgong ..	Ditto ..	10	Private ferry.
11	Rajpur ghat, Sabour ..	Rains	2	

Serial no.	Names of Ghats (Ferries).	Trade carried.	Number of boats.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
12	Pannuchak ghat ..	Rains.. ..	2	
13	Mohanpur ghat	Do.	2	
14	Lagma ghat	Do.	2	
15	Brahmachari ghat ..	Do.	2	
16	Thuthi ghat, Mahesa Munda	Do.	2	
17	Maheshpur Deori ghat ..	Do.	2	
18	Ghat Gudar Kitta Garai, Pratap Nagar.	Do.	2	
19	Pratap Nagar Punama ghat	Do.	2	
20	Lokmanpur ghat ..	Do.	2	
21	Sihkund ghat	Do.	2	
22	Mircha ghat	Do.	2	
23	Sahebanna ghat.. ..	Do.	2	
24	Dhoria ghat	Do. ..	2	
25	Dadpur ghat ..	Do.	2	
26	Ratanpura ghat.. ..	Do.	2	
27	Kalwalia ghat	Do.	2	
28	Chaupo Das ghat ..	Do.	2	
29	Guartratreu ghat ..	Do.	2	
30	Sakucha ghat . ..	Do. ..	2	
31	Naugachhia ghat ..	Do.	2	
32	Simra ghat	Do.	2	
33	Maktakia ghat	Do. .. .	2	
34	Balara ghat	Do. .. .	2	
35	Ufra Harjora ghat ..	Do.	2	
36	Sukhar ghat	Do.	2	
37	Karhil Nagarpara ghat ..	Do.	2	
38	Dhobiyahi ghat ..	Do.	2	
39	Sadhopur ghat	Do.	2	
40	Chapar ghat	Do.	2	

Serial no.	Names of Ghats (Ferries).	Trade carried.	Number of boats.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
41	Patharaghata ghat ..	Rains	2	
42	Rajdhar Ferry Tininga ghat	Do.	2	
43	Budhuchak ghat ..	Do.	2	
44	Ekchari Tapus ghat ..	Do.	2	
45	Govindpur ghat ..	Do.	2	
46	Malikpur ghat	Do.	2	All steamers and boats ply within the Bhagalpur district.

Transport by Air

There are two landing grounds in the Bhagalpur district, viz., (1) Bhagalpur landing ground, and (2) Banka landing ground.

Bhagalpur landing ground

The landing ground at Bhagalpur is situated at a distance of 3 miles from Bhagalpur railway station and is to the south of Bhagalpur Central Jail. This landing ground has no fencing but one is being constructed and is expected to be completed by October, 1961. This landing ground is serviceable throughout the year.

Banka landing ground

The landing ground is situated south of Banka at a distance of 3½ miles from Banka town. It is *kachcha* and serviceable only in fair weather.

There is no regular air service in this district. But private aeroplanes are allowed to use these landing grounds on payment of charges leviable under the rules framed in 1952.

Dak Bungalows, Inspection Bungalows and Rest Houses

There is a Circuit House at Bhagalpur which is maintained by the State Government and is meant for touring high officials. A Dak Bungalow at Bhagalpur and 20 Inspection Bungalows scattered throughout the district are maintained by the District Board.

There are also three Rest Houses at (1) Baliamabra, (2) Surauji, and (3) Nawada, and there is one Rest Shed at Shahkund which is maintained by Public Works Department.

The District Board of Bhagalpur maintains Inspection Bungalows at Pirpainti, Colgong, Ghogha, Sonhaula, Naugachhia, Bihpur, Sultanganj, Shambhuganj, Noorganj, Kajraili, Banka, Katoria, Beldiha, Bousi, Rajapokhar, Belhar, Bhitia, Jamdaha, Jaipur and Suiyabathan. There are *Dharmashalas* in all the towns and some of the townships. Stay there for a limited period is free.

The existing Rest Houses, Dak and Inspection Bungalows and *Dharmashalas*, etc., cannot be said to be adequate. The majority of such Bungalows is meant for Government employees and employees of the District Board. There has been an enormous increase of Government Officers and their staff that have to tour constantly. As a result, the pressure of want of proper rest houses for the other travelling public and non-officials, is being acutely felt. No tourism could be developed unless cheaper rest houses are built.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION

The postal communication as compared with that of four to five decades back has considerably improved. The following quotations are of interest :—

P.W. Murphy in his book "Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operation in the Bhagalpur district, 1902—10." says:—

> "The district contains sixteen sub-post offices and fifty-one branch post offices in addition to the head office at Bhagalpur.
>
> "All the railway lines have telegraph systems attached. There is also a wire from Bhagalpur to Godda..............There is no direct telegraphic communication between the north of the district and the south".

J. Byrne, I.C.S. in the *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur*, published in 1911 writes :—

> "At present in the district there are sixty-seven post offices. Every railway station has of course a telegraph office as well, but there is no direct telegraphic communication between the north and south of the district."

The Superintendent of Post Offices with headquarters at Bhagalpur is the head of the Postal Department, which is under a Central Ministry. The Superintendent of Post Offices, Bhagalpur Postal Division, is assisted by three Inspectors, all of whom have headquarters at Bhagalpur.

The total length of Postal Communication in 1961 is 2,256½ miles in the district. The Postal Communication by railways is 348 miles, by motor buses is 406 miles and by runners is 1,502 ½ miles in the district.

The Bhagalpur Post office is the Head Post-Office. There are 27 Sub-Post Offices and 236 Branch Post Offices. The Sub-Post Offices in the district are :—Adampur, Amarpur, Banka, Barahat, Barari, Bhagalpur City, Bhagalpur District Board, Bibpur, Bousi, Burahnath, Champanagar, Colgong, Ghogha, Isakchak, Ishipur, Khanjarpur, Mirjanhat, Narainpur, Nathnagar, Naugachhia, Pirpainti, Sabour, Satish Sarkar Lane, Sujaganj Bazar, Sultanganj, Tatarpur and T.N.B. College.

Some of the Sub-Post Offices are served by direct rail communication (Railway Mail Service) and others are served by road through motors, buses or through runners.

The 236 Branch Post Offices are located at bigger and small villages and they serve the neighbouring villages. Some of the Branch Post Offices are located where there are Police Stations and Block Offices.

At all the Post Offices including Branch Post Offices, ordinary postal transactions including money orders are conducted. Most of the Sub-Post Offices conduct Savings Bank business and also sell National Savings Certificates. National Savings Certificates are not sold at any Extra Departmental Sub-Offices.

Many of the villages do not get more than one delivery in a week. The ideal is to have a Post Office at every village which has a population of 2,000 persons.

The following statistics indicate the average weekly Postal business done in 1961 :—

	Number.
1. Average weekly number of articles delivered ..	20,373
2. Average weekly Money Order issued	4,031
3. Average weekly Money Order paid	4,263
4. Average weekly Savings Bank deposits . ..	1,326
5. Average weekly Savings Bank withdrawals ..	1,040
6. Average weekly National Savings Certificates issued ..	92
7. Average weekly National Savings Certificates discharged	7

Telephones and Telegraphs.

There are three Telephone Exchanges in the district, namely, Bhagalpur, Colgong and Naugachhia. The Bhagalpur Telephone

Exchange has 376 main connections and 10 Public Call Offices. The Public Call Offices in Bhagalpur town are the following :—(1) Bhagalpur Departmental Telegraph Office; (2) Bhagalpur City Post Office; (3) T.N.B. College Post Office; (4) Sabour Post Office; (5) Barari Railway Station; (6) Mirjanhat Post Office; (7) Khanjarpur Post Office; (8) Adampur; (9) Isakchak, and (10) Nathnagar.

The Colgong Telephone Exchange has 30 main connections and one Public Call Office.

The Naugachhia Telephone Exchange has 49 main connections with one extension including Public Call Office.

There are Public Call Offices at Bihpur, Banka, Barahat and Sultanganj also in the district.

The opening up of the Telephone Services have been a great boon to the merchants and Government officials.

There are 23 Postal Telegraph Offices in the district. They are, viz., Bhagalpur Departmental Telegraph Office, Bhagalpur City, Banka, Barari, Barahat, Pirpainti, Colgong, Sultanganj, Nathnagar, Champanagar, Amarpur, Rajaun, Bousi, Shahkund, Belhar, Sabour, Naugachhia, Bihpur, Sonauhla, Panjwara, Dharaia, Mirjanhat and T.N.B. College.

The words of P.W. Murphy and J. Byrne regarding the lack of telegraphic communication between south and north of the district still hold good. Telegraphic messages pass between south and north of the district either through Patna or Calcutta.

Radio and Wireless.

There is no broadcasting station in the district yet. There has been a move from the public to have a broadcasting station.

People are getting radio minded. The number of licensees for radio in Bhagalpur district for 1961 up to June is 3,325. The Public Relations Department has a scheme of supplying radios to selected rural libraries at a reduced rate. A few radios have been distributed under the scheme.

The police have three wireless stations at Bhagalpur, Banka and Naugachhia but they are meant for administrative purposes only. The necessity of such wireless stations was particularly felt by the administration in 1942 disturbances.

ORGANISATION OF OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES.

Bhagalpur district has got one association of bus owners. In face of the large number of buses that have Bhagalpur as starting

point and another large number of buses that pass through Bhagalpur, this association has an important role to play. The association looks after the interest of the transport owners. The employees in bus transport service have not got any recognised association.

The rickshaw pullers of Bhagalpur have two associations. Bhagalpur Rickshaw Driver Union has a membership of 140 persons and is affiliated to A.I.T.U.C. The other, namely, Bhagalpur Rickshaw Mazdoor Sangh has a membership of 1,335 and is affiliated to I.N.T.U.C.

CHAPTER VIII

ECONOMIC TRENDS

A discussion on the economic trends of a people inhabiting a particular region must necessarily include an account of (*i*) the changes in area and jurisdiction of that region, (*ii*) changes in human factor, (*iii*) changes in the development and better utilization of resources and (*iv*) changes in the structure and organisation of economic life. Hence, a discussion of the economic trends of Bhagalpur district has to be preceded by a brief account of the area and jurisdiction of the district.

EARLY HISTORY

The limits of the present District of Bhagalpur have been fixed more for administrative convenience rather than for giving a habitat to a particular racial group; in fact, the area of the district has changed from time to time. At one time Bhagalpur formed part of Sarkar Monghyr, one of the seven sarkars into which Bihar was subdivided at the time of the Mohammedan conquest in 1202 A.D. From 1765, the year in which the Diwani or Revenue Administration of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was granted to the East India Company, to 1874, Bhagalpur had jurisdiction over a vast territory now falling within the districts of Malda, Purnea, Santhal Parganas and Monghyr. It may be mentioned that Mr. Augustus Cleveland, who won over the landless and wild inhabitants of Rajmahal in 1777-78 was the first Collector of Bhagalpur and Rajmahal. Since 1874, the year in which the area of the district was further diminished by transferring an area of about 114 sq. miles to Monghyr, there has not been any major transfer of area and jurisdiction of the district till 1954 when Madhipura and Supaul subdivisions were created into a separate district as Saharsa (vide Pol. Deptt. notification no. 517-P.G., dated 29th March 1954). This has been mentioned separately.

A detailed account of the early history of the district may be had from the *Final Report of the Survey and Settlement Operations* in the district by Mr. Murphy, I.C.S., Settlement Officer, Bihar, published in 1912 and from the text earlier.

BOUNDARY AND AREA

Bhagalpur district has an area of 2,123 sq. miles according to Census of 1951 though the Surveyor-General of India has reported the area to be 2,184 sq. miles. The difference being small, may

be ignored (vide *District Census Hand Book of Bhagalpur* 1951). The district is divided by the river Ganga, its area having changed as a result of more accurate surveys and transfer of certain units. It consists of a long irregularly shaped strip about 55 miles in length from north to south, varying in width from 14 miles at its centre, where it is narrowest, to about 45 miles at its widest part. It is bounded on the north by Saharsa, on the east by Purnea and Santhal Pargans, on the west by Monghyr and on the south by Santhal Parganas.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

For administrative purposes, it was divided into four subdivisions Bhagalpur, Banka, Madhipura and Supaul. The whole of the previous Madhip ura and Supaul subdivisions lie on the north of the Ganga and the whole of the Banka subdivision on the south. Of the four revenue thanas into which Bhagalpur subdivision is split up, Bihpur lies to the north of the river, Sultanganj and Bhagalpur on the south and Colgong partly on the north and parlty on the south. In 1954, the subdivisions of Madhipura and Supaul were made into a separate district called Saharsa with headquarters at Saharsa, having an area of 2,092 square miles and population of 1,308,198. The account that follows pertains to the entire district of Bhagalpur as it stood before the creation of Saharsa as a separate district for a better appreciation of the features and facts.

Till March, 1912, the district of Bhagalpur was one of the districts of the Province of Bengal and it became a constituent district of the newly created province of Bihar and Orissa from April, 1912 and continued so till March, 1937. With the creation of a separate province for Orissa in 1937, Bhagalpur now forms part of the State of Bihar which is a Part A State according to the Indian Constitution.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The two portions into which the Ganga divides the district differ widely in their physical characteristics the difference between them being similar to that which exists between north and south Monghyr. The two portions have widely different physical, fiscal and agrarian characteristics which materially affect the economic condition of the respective regions. The north has been the playground of rivers like the Kosi, the Tiljuga and the Dhimra which descend from the Nepal Hills and make their way, frequently changing their channels, to the Ganga. The formation of this part is new alluvium and the face of the country is liable to constant flood and fluctuation. The south is much more stable; its soil is old alluvium rising through the laterite uplands of Banka

and Katoria to the hilly country on the borders of the Santhal Parganas and south Monghyr. It is not subject to flood except in the north-eastern corner where the lower levels are sometimes inundated by the surplus water of the two hill-streams the Chandan and the Chir which pass through south Bhagalpur on their meandering course from Santhal Parganas. South Bhagalpur is healthier than North Bhagalpur and Saharsa district. Malarial fever is still common in some of the flooded thanas of the north. In contrast to the south, the north had been more or less free from the scourage of plague and other diseases.

CHANGES IN HUMAN FACTOR

Changes in population

Owing to the frequent and extensive changes which took place in the boundary lines of the district prior to 1874, it is not possible to ascertain what was the size of the population before that date. Though estimates of the population of a few parganas of the district were made as far back as 1811 by Buchanan Hamilton and later in 1853 by Mr. Pemberton, they do not appear to be based on very scientific lines as there had been no systematic census on approved lines at that time. There was a preliminary census in 1869 but the first census on somewhat sceintific principles was done in 1872. The first proper census of the district taken in 1872 recorded the total population to be 1,824,738 and the total number of houses to be 329,372. The total area of the district was 4,327 sq. miles with an average density of population of 422 per sq. mile. Subsequent census operations of the district took place in 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1931, 1941 and 1951. The total population, percentage, variation and human density are given below in a tabular statement:—

Year.	Total population.	Percentage variation (increase or decrease).	Mean density per sq. mile.
1872	1,824,738	..	422
1881	1,966,138	+7.8	466
1891	2,032,696	+3.3	481
1901	2,088,953	+2.8	494
1911	2,139,318	+2.4	506
1921	2,033,770	−4.9	481
1931	2,234,632	+9.88	529
1941	2,408,879	+7.8	562
1951	2,737,267	+13.6	641.5

Doubts are cast as to the accuracy of the figures of population as given by the first census operations in 1872, inasmuch as percentage increase of population in 1881 as compared to that of 1872 appears to be excessive when compared with the average increase in the whole of Bengal. It is probable that many people who inhabited the inaccessible areas of the district escaped enumeration in 1872 and hence the decennial increase of population was 7.8 per cent. Comparing the average density of population of Tirhut Division which works out at 1,033 per sq. mile, Bhagalpur with a mean density of 641.5 per sq. mile is not thickly populated. Judging by the statistics of population given above, the population of Bhagalpur appears to have been more or less stationary during 1891—1921. The percentage increase of 3.3 per cent in 1891 was turned into a decrease of 4.9 per cent in 1921. Omitting from consideration of the statistics of population for 1872, as the same appears to be inaccurate, one finds that the population of the district has recorded an increase during each decennial period except the period from 1911—21. But the increase registered at each decennial period is only half that of the average increase of the whole province and even less than that of the other districts of North Bihar except Saran. An explanation to this peculiar feature of the growth of population of the district is to be found in the vagaries of the Kosi which passes through North Bhagalpur and the series of epidemic diseases like cholera, plague and influenza which have taken a heavy toll of population in every decade. Mr. W. G. Lacey, the Census Superintendent for Bihar and Orissa in 1931, mentions in the Census Report "The history of North Bhagalpur during the last 50 years is intimately bound up with the vagaries of the Kosi river. Formerly, the channels of this stream were all contained in the neighbouring district of Purnea, but ever since it invaded Bhagalpur district, it has kept the residents of that area in a constant state of uncertainty as to what it will do next. For many years it shifted more and more to the west, forming new channels as it went but never leaving the old ones completely dry. Practically, the whole, of North Bhagalpur is now a net work of river beds, running parallel with one another from north to south; when monsoon comes, it is sometimes one channel and sometimes another which carries the main stream of this incalculable river." (pp. 26).

1881—1891.—During the first ten years of 1881—1911 the rate of increase of population was about 3.3 per cent almost entirely due to an increase of population in Supaul subdivision where population rose by 9.5 per cent. Part of the increase may be due to the improved methods of enumeration. This decade was particularly unhealthy for the district, many deaths having occurred from fever and cholera. Of the remaining three subdivisions the population of the sadar subdivision was almost stationary, escaping a decline because of the growth of Bhagalpur town. In

the south, population in Banka subdivision was also stationary. In the north, in Madhipura it was falling chiefly owing to the westward movement of the Kosi which threw large areas in Kishanganj thana out of cultivation.

1891—1901.—During 1891—1901, the rate of increase had declined to 2.8 per cent. The district was visited by two famines during this period one in 1892 and the other in 1896-97. According to Mr. J. Byrne, I.C.S. as mentioned in the old District Gazetteer, the first one was a period of scarcity in which a large part of Supaul and Madhipura subdivisions suffered. The second famine also affected the western portion of Supaul subdivision. Peculiarly enough, the two thanas mostly affected by famines showed an increase at the Census of 1901. Kishanganj thana again showed a decline partly owing to the unhealthiness of this area and partly to the action of the Kosi but Partapganj thana in Supaul subdivision, another very unhealthy area, showed a phenomenal increase of population owing to the construction of a railway line from Nirmali to Partapganj.

1901—1911.—During the decade of 1901—1911, the rate of increase of population further declined to 2.4 per cent. The thanas south of the river Ganges remained stationary, while the increase in Madhipura subdivision was marked. Kishanganj thana in the same subdivision had become temporarily free from the ravages of the Kosi and had been able to bring a large area under the plough which was previously swamp and jungle. There was a sharp unaccountable rise of 39.85 per cent in the population of that thana. On the other hand, Supaul subdivision which had hitherto been progressively registering an increase all these years showed a decline to the extent of 3.4 per cent in this decade. During the period under review natural calamities like famines and floods affected portion of the district which vitally affected the material condition of the people and encouraged emigration. On account of scanty rainfall in 1902, there was scarcity in Supaul subdivision ; large areas round Supaul and Madhipura were devastated by the high floods of 1906 and the abnormally low rainfall of 1908-09 led to scarcity as a result of which some 70,000 persons emigrated to the eastern portion of Supaul, Madhipura and western portion of Purnea district.

Influenza, 1918.—The census operations of 1921 indicated that Bhagalpur had fared worse than most other districts during the unhappy years that were just over. Cholera had been persistently active from 1915 to 1919. Then came the disastrous influenza epidemic of 1918 which raised the death rate of 1918 to 52.2 per mille against an average of 32.9 for the preceding five years and that of 1919 to 41.3 per mille. The birth rate of 1919 fell to 28.9 per mille or nearly 10 per mille less than the average for the previous five years. Commenting on the influenza epidemic of

1919, Mr. P.C. Tallents, I.C.S., Superintendent, Census Operations of the province observed: "The first sign of the trouble in 1918 was an acute outbreak of cholera in the hot weather in that year. 200,000 deaths occurred in the province from that disease alone. In July influenza was noticed in the headquarters station of the district in a not particularly acute form. Then after a lull of a few weeks, it began in September along the routes of communication. It was frequently combined with pneumonia and this in the majority of cases proved fatel." (Vide *Census of India*, 1921, Vol. VII, Part I, Bihar and Orissa, pages 13-14.) In this district alone, the excess of reported deaths over births was 36,000 in 1918 and 26,000 in 1919. It was not till 1920 that the balance between births and deaths readjusted itself in favour of the former. During the decade ending in 1921, the net natural increase recorded was 77,000 against 103,000 in the previous decade and it is no wonder that the population of the district actually declined by 4.9 per cent over that of the previous decade.

Famine of 1918-19.—The decade ending in 1921 was also very unsatisfactory from the point of view of agricultural production; famines and scarcities were rampant over the entire decade. In this decade, crops were good only in 1911, 1916 and 1917 while the other years had scarcity and famine. After the good crops of 1916 and 1917, there was the bad year of 1918. This year began well and the rains were abundant till September of that year but as a result of the failure of the Hathia rains, there was a complete failure of crop in South Bhagalpur with the consequence that famine had to be declared from June to December of 1919. Prices rose in sympathy and the distress of the people immensely increased due to the combined effect of the famine and infleunza. There was a big decline of population of the district in all the thanas except Sultanganj in Sadar subdivision and Kishanganj in Madhipura subdivision. The decline was most marked in Banka subdivision where famine was declared and there was large scale migration from this area.

Migration.—According to the *Census Report of* 1921, as many as 20,000 persons were said to have emigrated from Banka subdivision alone between the preliminary and final enumeration. In the north, the decrease was heaviest in Madhipura thana where the decrease was to the extent of 11.67 per cent but this was largely due to inter-district distribution of the population, people having gone to Kishanganj thana to escape the Kosi floods. In other thanas, the decrease was general and was ascribed principally to the loss of life owing to disease and scarcity and the consequential fall in birth rate. The effect of migration on the actual population of the district had been different from what it was in the case of other districts of Tirhut Division. Emigration of both sexes increased slightly while immigration had fallen off to the

extent of 52,000; the combined effect of emigration and immigration leaving the district a loser to the extent of 56,000. More than half of the decrease in population of the district during the decade may be accounted for by the decrease in migration and the rest must be put down to the epidemics and scarcity of the decade.

The Great War (1914—18).—The Great War did not produce any significant influence on the population of the district. The attempt at recruitment for the army and allied services did not have a good response. The economic effects of this international event have been considered in these pages at appropriate place.

1921—31.—During the decade ending in 1931, the population of the district recorded an increase of 9.88 per cent over that of the previous census. The distribution of this substantial surplus between different subdivisions and different thanas was very unequal. According to the *Census Report of* 1931, generally those localities which had sufferred most during the previous decade now recorded a rapid growth. Thus, in the south, the Banka subdivision converted a loss of 10.30 per cent into a gain of 20.38 per cent. The advent of comparative prosperity after some years of disaster caused the pendulum to swing in this abrupt manner. An explanation as to the unprecedented increase in population of this region might be the return of the majority of 20,000 persons who had migrated between the preliminary and final enumeration of the census in 1921. It might have been also due to the increased agricultural activity of the people of the subdivision where pressure on soil was the least. The next largest increase is to be found in the case of the Sadar subdivision which had recorded a slow progress during 1881—1921, the net increase being only 5 per cent. The surplus in this subdivision was mostly due to the increase in the population of the headquarters thana because of the growth of the Bhagalpur city. The area north of the Ganga did not record the same rate of increase as it had been doing in the previous decades and the progress of population of this area is not so marked as in the south. Two revenue thanas of this area showed a decline of population; thana Partapganj in Supaul subdivision recorded a substantial decrease of 7.81 per cent while Kishanganj thana in Madhipura subdivision recorded a slight decrease of .92 per cent. This decline of population was primarily attributable to the shifting of the river Kosi towards the west which necessitated the closing of the Bhaptiahi-Partapganj section of the Bengal North Western Railway, now called the North Eastern Railway. It may be observed that the population of Kishanganj thana recorded an increase in the previous decade due mainly to immigration from the Madhipura thana which was being ravaged by the Kosi. The record increase of population of Bangaon (13.20 per cent) in Madhipura subdivision might be attributed to the security of that thana against the inroads of the Kosi.

Population during 1931—41.—During this period, the area of the district was found to be 4,283 sq. miles as against 4,158 sq. miles shown in the previous census. This slight increase was due to more accurate surveys of the district carried on by the Survey of India since 1931. The population of the district also recorded an increase from 2,234,632 in 1931 to 2,408,879 in 1941, the rate of variation of population being 7.8 per cent and the density per sq. mile being 562 as against 529 in the previous census. This increase in population was due to the increase recorded in the three out of four subdivisions of the district. Of the four subdivisions into which the district was subdivided, Supaul recorded a decline of population to the extent of 12.31 per cent as compared to the population of 1931. Heaviest decrease in population was noticed in Supaul thana of that subdivision and Bangaon thana of Madhipura subdivision, the rate of variation being 22.05 per cent and 19.15 per cent respectively. These two thanas are situated in the western most part of North Bhagalpur and the shifting of the course of the Kosi further to the west might have been the most important cause of the decrease in population of the area. Apart from this, the floods in the Kosi bring in its wake the deposit of slit, sand, water logging and spread of diseases like malaria and Kalazar. Curiously enough, tha thanas of Partapganj in Supaul subdivision and of Madhipura and Kishanganj thanas in Madhipura subdivision registered an increase of 17.8 per cent, 22.05 per cent and 28.24 per cent respectively over those of 1931. This increase was possibly due to immigration of population from the adjoining flood-affected areas to these thanas which had become immune from the ravages of ths Kosi.

The great decrease of population in Supaul thana, caused by heavy floods in Kosi is mentioned in the Land Revenue Administration Reports of the district for 1939-40 and 1940-41. Heavy floods in the Kosi caused considerable damage in Supaul subdivision; nearly 570 houses being affected, (*Land Revenue Administration Report of Bhagalpur for* 1939-40, p. 17). In the report for the next year. "Floods caused damages to reservoirs and roads in parts of Gaya, but there was no widespread flood during the year under report except in Supaul and Madhipura subdivisions the western parts of which were seriously affected by the Kosi floods"—(*Land Revenue Administration Report of Bhagalpur for* 1940-41, p. 17).

Population during 1941—51.—During the period ending in 1951 the combined area and population of Bhagalpur district and Saharsa sub-district were 4,266 sq. miles and 2,737,267 respectively as against 4.248 sq. miles of area and 2,408,879 population in the decade ending 1941. Taking a mean of the average densities of the two districts as given in the *Census Report of* 1951, the average density of the combined district comes up to 641.5 per

sq. mile as against 562 for the previous decade. In the same way, the mean percentage variation of population of the combined area as compared to the population for 1941 comes to 13.7. All the thanas of Sadar subdivision and Banka subdivision recorded an increase of population over the previous period ranging from 17 per cent in Bihpur thana of Sadar subdivision to 6.1 per cent of Banka subdivision. In Saharsa sub-district, all the thanas except Supaul recorded an increase ranging from 47.4 per cent in Partapganj thana of Supaul to 23.3 per cent in the case of Bangaon thana of Madhepura, the corresponding variation of the two thanas for 1941 being 17.9 per cent and 19.1 per cent. The other two thanas of Madhepura subdivision also recorded an increase, the percentage variation of population since 1941 being 30.6 per cent for Madhepura and 24.3 per cent for Kishanganj. This 13.7 per cent increase in the population of the district was a part of the general increase of population which has been taking place in India as a whole since the beginning of the present century with the exception of the decade ending in 1921 when the population actually recorded a decline. Since 1931, the rate of variation is becoming higher due to the increase in survival rate in view of the improved public health and medical facilities. Till then there was no question of family planning. As has been pointed out by the author of the *Census Report of* 1951, the population may increase by 30 per cent if no steps are taken to reduce the population.

URBAN-RURAL RATIO IN THE POPULATION

The urban-rural ratio in the population of a region throws some light on the economic pattern of that area. If the urban ratio is predominant, the economic activity of that region will be different from what it will be if the majority of the people are rural in character. Predominance of urban population presupposes relative density of dwelling houses ; trading and industrial activities on the part of the people and a different mode of life of its inhabitants; its problems are quite distinct from those predominating rural areas. It has also an important effect on the standard of life of the people.

Taking an urban area to mean a municipality or cantonment and areas having urban characteristics like continuity of dwelling houses, some kind of trading or industrial activity as a distinct character amongst its inhabitants and a minimum population of 5,000, 1,22,045 persons out of the total of 27,37,267 persons were said to reside in the urban areas of this district according to the *Census Report of* 1951. Expressed as percentage of the total, nearly 4.5 per cent were living in urban areas while 95.5 were residing in the rural areas. In the context of the State percentage of the urban population which is 7.1 per cent, Bhagalpur must be said to be more rural than urban in the nature of composition of

its population. According to the same report the total population of Bhagalpur resided in 3,561 towns and villages of varying sizes. 189,511 persons were residing in 29 towns and villages having a population between 5,000 to 10,000, more 25,705 persons residing in two towns and villages and 114,530 persons in one town while the rest were residing in areas having population up to 5,000. The corresponding figures according to the Census of 1941 was 143,393 persons residing in 24 towns and villages having population ranging between 5,000 to 10,000, 10,721 persons residing in one town having population ranging between 10,000—20,000, none in areas having population between 20,000—50,000, while 93,254 persons residing at one place having population ranging from 50,000—100,000. According to the same source, 99,777 persons resided in urban areas while 2,309,102 resided in rural areas, the ratio between the two being 1:24 against 1:18 of the whole province. Whereas in the province as a whole 55 persons out of every one thousand resided in towns, *in this district* only *41* persons resided in towns while the rest resided in rural areas.

These facts explain the comparative rural character of the district, when the main occupation of the population is agriculture. According to the *Census Report of* 1951 there are only two towns in this district as against eleven in the district of Monghyr and seven in Santhal Parganas. These two towns have been in existence since 1901 and it is curious to note that during the last fifty years, no rural area of the district has achieved the distinction of a town. A number of townships, however, has sprung up in the district during these years. At the outset there were the three headquarters of the three subdivisions like Supaul, Madhepura and Banka which had urban characteristics though they were listed in the categories of village. Supaul and Madhipura in North Bhagalpur and Saharsa the headquarters of the newly created district of that name, have now come to possess urban characteristics. Madhipura and Saharsa possess urban amenities like schools, college, hospital and cinemas. In the same manner there are two important trade centres, Murliganj and Behariganj where brisk trade in jute, maize, tobacco and oilseeds is carried on. In the Sadar subdivision also, new townships have grown up in recent years. Naugachia is an important market on the main line of North Eastern Railway between Barauni and Katihar with its oil mills. banks and godowns and *arhats* of the merchants. Narainpur has now a college which means an influx of students. Sultanganj and Sabour on the Sahebgang loop section of the Eastern Railway have developed into townships, the former possessing distillery for manufacture of wine, several mills and grain *arhats* or godowns and a college and the latter being the seat of the Government Agricultural College and cold storage for storing potato. In Banka subdivision, Banka has also developed urban characteristics such as Government offices, High schools and a college ; it is situated 29 miles south of

Bhagalpur and is accessible by bus. Bhagalpur-Mandar Hill branch Railway line passes at a distance of five miles to the east of Banka. Bounsi, a township on this section may be developed into a sanatorium if tourism is developed. Nathnagar is a satellite town of Bhagalpur.

According to the Census authorities, Bhagalpur district possesses only two towns, Bhagalpur (114,530) and Colgong (7,515), the former being the fourth city in the State, after Patna, Jamshedpur and Gaya.* The population of this town has increased from 75,760 in 1901 to 114,530 in 1951. It suffered heavily during the period 1911—21 due to plague and other epidemics so that its population decreased by 5,471. Since 1921, there has been a phenomenal increase in its population due to increased commercial and industrial activity. Its population increased by 22 per cent during 1921—31 and by 9,407 or 11 per cent during 1931—41. During the last decade ending in 1951, its population has gone up by 21,276 or 22.9 per cent. Much of this increase in population is due to improvements effected in public health, development of road transport, increased commercial and industrial activity, opening of new colleges for boys and girls and the introduction of electricity since 1929. Five colleges and over a dozen High schools are responsible for about 12,000 student population. In the last three decades, many small-scale industries like spinning, weaving, dyeing, oil-pressing, trunk making, etc., worked with electric power, have been set up. There is an extensive cloth trade and a concentration of Marwari traders in this town. Bhagalpur, being the divisional headquarters, new Government offices have been started since the commencement of the Second World War and the same has led to the increase in its population. The grain market at Mirjanhat, a mahalla of the town, has also contributed to the growth of the urban population where business worth more than a crore of rupees is transacted in the course of the year. The war time cheap money led to the starting of a few mushroom industries and branches of banks, some of which collapsed after the cessation of the World War. The partition of the country in 1947 has brought in a few number of refugees both from East Pakistan and West Pakistan, the former carrying on petty business in hawking and cloth manufacture and the latter doing business in stationery, cycles, building business, etc. The abolition of zamindari has led to migration of many rich families from the villages to the town which has, however, been allowed to grow in an oblique manner. Lately, the condition of the municipal roads, public health and water-supply has considerably deteriorated on account of the inability of the municipality to cope with the increased demand on its services. The growth of the town since the last war has given rise to acute housing problem, the construction of a few quarters by the State Government, for its ministerial staff is an extremely inadequate measure. In spite of

*A different criteria has been adopted for determination of a town in 1961 Census discussed elsewhere.

hundreds of houses being built every year since the last one decade the housing problem has not been solved. The middle classes have been hard hit and small houses have been converted into flats or tenements with almost slum condition, there being very little of privacy or sanitary arrangements. Bhagalpur has been given in 1960 a splendid railway station.

Colgong (7,575) another town of the district is situated on the Sahebganj loop section of the Eastern Railway ; it has a municipality of its own. Its population has increased from 5,738 in 1901 to 7,575 in 1951. During 1911—21, its population decreased by 1,441 due mostly to the epidemic diseases. The increase in population of this town in recent years is due to greater commercial activity of the place and opening of High school and Government offices and local reasons. It carries on trade in grains and commodities like cloth and kerosene oil with the adjoining area situated on both sides of the Ganga river. Steamers and boats carry the merchandise north of the Ganga while bullock cart is the only conveyance for goods to the south of the river. It is an emporium for parts of Purnea and Santhal Parganas districts. During war-time a few industries like *gur* making, glass-blowing, etc., were started but they are in a bad way now. The municipality is a very old one and was started mostly with a view to satisfy the Anglo-Indian indigo planters who had their factory known as the Colgong concern in the vicinity. Roads are still very bad and there is no arrangement for water-supply, the only important service rendered by the municipality is scavenging and lighting of streets. Colgong has the possibility of being converted into a place of tourist importance.

Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infantile Mortality

Though data regarding births and deaths are not very reliable, they give some idea of the variation of population from year to year. According to the *Bihar Statistical Handbook for* 1951, the total number of births and deaths registered in the district, were 34,365 and 22,461 respectively out of which 2,092 accounted for infant deaths calculating on the basis of the population of the district for 1931, the birth rate, death rate and infantile mortality rate work out at 14.2, 9.26 and 93.1 per mille respectively, as against 19.7, 12.7 and 124.3 per mille for the State. According to the *Census Report of Bihar for* 1941 the total number of births and deaths registered in the district during 1931-41 were 694,451 and 530,106 respectively.

It may reasonably be stated that the rapid rise in the population of the district since 1921 is due to the fall in the death rate as a result of improvements in public health and medical services since the transference of power into the hands of the popular ministers though the birth rate has practically remained

the same. The district was free from any severe epidemic during the period 1921-51 and the mortality from diseases was reduced. This is also corroborated by the fact that there has not been any marked change in migration. According to the Census Reports since 1921 the proportion of females to every 1,000 male population has been declining from 977 in 1931 to 965 in 1941 in contrast to the ratio in the census years. According to the *Census Report for* 1951 the total male population of the district was 1,401, 358 while the female was 1,335,909. This disparity between the male and female population is more pronounced in the case of urban population. In Bhagalpur city alone males were in excess of females to the extent of 10,568 in a total population of 1,14,530 in 1951. Similarly, in Colgong, the only other town, the total population of 7,515 was distributed between 3,967 males and 3,548 females. This disparity between the male and female population of towns is quite natural as large number of immigrants come to towns without their wives. They come to the towns either to pursue their profession or to receive education.

Age Structure and Expectation of Life

Economic condition of a region is very much dependent on the structure of age and expectation of life of its inhabitants. If in a particular region the proportion of infants and children, boys and girls and old persons is predominant, economy of that region will be a backward one. Similarly, if the average expectation of life of the inhabitants of a region below, it is expected that the economic activity of that place will be in a depressed condition. The author of the *Census Report for* 1951, has divided the population of the country in the following five categories viz., age 0—4—infants and young children, age 5—14—boys and girls, age 15—34—young men and women, age 35-54—middle aged men and women and age 55 and above—elderly persons.

Taking the first two categories together, it is found that in India as a whole 38.3 per cent of the total population is under the age of 15, 53.4 per cent between 15—54, while 8.3 per cent are over 55 years of age with a slight variation in different zones into which India is divided. According to the sample survey carried out in Bhagalpur district by the Superintendent of Census Operations in Bihar in 1951 comprising 518 households with a population of 2,084 persons, 70 persons or 3.4 per cent were infants below one year of age, 810 or 38.8 per cent between the age 1—20 (non-adults) and 1,204 or 57.8 per cent above 21 years of age (adults). After deducting the percentage of the elderly persons of the Eastern Zone in which the area of Bhagalpur is included, it is found that in this district only 48.9 per cent of the total population are found in the age group 15—54. The percentage of the population in this age group rises in the case of the urban population of this district.

Livelihood pattern of the district

A discussion of the economic condition of a people cannot be complete without an account of the livelihood pattern of the district. The occupational distribution of population of a region determines, to a great extent, the nature of economic activity, if the majority of its people depend upon agriculture, the production of and trade in food-stuffs and rawmaterials will be the dominant feature of economic life. Till 1951 the statistics about livelihood and production were not very accurate and no uniform basis of classification of population was adopted by the different census authorities, with the result that it is not possible to attempt a comparative study of the livelihood pattern of the district. According to the *Census Report of* 1951, out of 2,737,263, the entire population of this district as much as 2,382,167 or 87.6 per cent of the total population was engaged in agriculture and 355,104 or 12.4 per cent was engaged in occupations other than agriculture. The agricultural population was further subdivided into four classes such as (*a*) cultivators of land mainly owned by them and their dependents, (*b*) cultivators who mainly cultivate unowned lands and their dependents, (*c*) cultivating labourers and their dependents and (*d*) non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependents. According to the same sources, 1,112,062 or 46.6 per cent of those who followed agriculture as their livelihood fell into the first category, 504,562 or 21.4 per cent fell into the second category, 644,992 or 27.7 per cent into the third category and 20,347 or .9 per cent fell into the fourth category. Out of 355,104 persons who formed the non-agricultural section of the population of the district 81,082 or 22.8 per cent were in the category of producers other than cultivators, 97,758 or 27.5 per cent were engaged in commerce, 14,378 or 4.5 per cent were engaged in transport and 162,886 or 45.5 per cent were engaged in other services and miscellaneous occupations.

Immigration and Emigration

According to the *Censys Report of* 1951, the total number of immigrants in this district numbered 82,228, viz., persons enumerated in this district but born elsewhere. Out of this total number of immigrants in this district as much as 47,334 had come from the adjoining districts of Monghyr, Purnea and Santhal Parganas, while a total of 5,684 persons had immigrated from the adjoining States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. There was some immigration also from the neighbouring countries in Asia beyond India such as Nepal and Pakistan ; the two contributing 922 and 1,340 persons respectively. The number of emigrants from this district is not mentioned in the latest census report. But the growth in the actual population of the district when scrutinised in conjunction with the vital statistics for the

decade and the variation in the number of immigrants, gives indication as to the variation in the number of emigrants from the previous census.

According to the *Census Report of* 1931, the number of emigrants from this district stood at 122,000 for 1931 against 171,165 for 1921. *The Bihar Census Report* 1951 states that 28,25,856 persons were born in this district of whom only 26,55,856 were enumerated within the district leaving a balance of 170,817 who were enumerated outside the borders of the district. The same sources reveal that a total of 58,472 persons born in the district were enumerated in Purnea alone, whereas 36,557 and 22,461 were enumerated in the adjoining districts of Monghyr and Santhal Parganas. Much of this emigration is casual in character, i. e., the people migrate to those districts during agricultural season and come back again when the operations are over. A large number of persons from Madhepura and Supaul subdivisions of Saharsa district migrate to Purnea during the sowing season as that district is particularly short of labour, while a substantial number from the south of the district migrate to the adjoining districts of Santhal Parganas and Monghyr.

As regards immigration to towns and cities, nearly 12.4 per cent of the total population of the City of Bhagalpur were immigrants of whom 5.1 per cent came from the contiguous districts or State-groups and 3.8 per cent from other parts of India according to the Census of 1931. The *Census Report of* 1951 shows that as a result of the partition of the country in 1947, 1,935 persons had migrated to Bhagalpur from West Pakistan and East Pakistan during 1946—51. Most of the immigration has taken place to the town of Bhagalpur where they are engaged in petty trades. There is no doubt that there have been more of them since 1951.

CHANGES IN THE UTILISATION OF RESOURCES—ECONOMIC CONDITION

(*a*) A discussion of the changes in the utilisation of resources of a region is essential in order to have a clear picture of the economic condition of that area. This discussion should include the changes both in the human and material resources of the area. Changes in human resources having been described in the foregoing pages under the heading of population, it is necessary to give a picture of the changes in the material resources like land and capital which is the product of land and labour. The topography and physical features of the district an account of which is given elsewhere suggest that agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the district and it is also corroborated by the statistics of the livelihood pattern furnished by the *Census Report of* 1951. This report shows that as much as 87.6 per cent of the total

population of the district is dependent on agriculture and the rest on non-agricultural pursuits. Hence the material condition of the people is very much dependent on agriculture.

Any study of the incidence of agriculture, of the district may conveniently be made under different periods—each period being marked out from other period by some important event in the economic history of the district. Since the area and the present boundaries have been fixed in 1874, the incidence of agriculture may be studied under (1) period prior to 1874, i. e., 1765—1873, (2) 1874—1900, (3) 1900—1918, (4) 1919—1929, (5) 1929—1937, (6) 1938—1945 and (7) 1946—1954.

1765—1873.—No very systematic account of the economic condition of the people of the district is easily available as the area and jurisdiction of the district underwent a number of changes and the materials probably lie scattered in the archives of the different collectorates with which Bhagalpur was attached from time to time. However, certain important events of this period deserve mention which will throw some light on the state of agriculture. In 1765, when the *Diwani* or Revenue Administration of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was granted to the East India Company, Bhagalpur as then constituted consisted of a few parganas, lying in adjoining districts and formed part of Sarkar Monghyr.* In 1769, British Supervisors were appointed to superintend local collection of revenue on behalf of the East India Company with his head-quarters at Rajmahal, now in Santhal Parganas, his jurisdiction lying over a portion of Bengal and the eastern portion of Bihar which included Bhagalpur. The condition of agriculture was very unsatisfactory from 1765—1800 due to the occurrence of a number of severe famines and droughts as a result of which agriculture was in a very depressed condition. The first great famine regarding which some material is available was the famine of 1770. As Bhagalpur was attached to Rajmahal which was further subordinate to the Provincial Council at Murshidabad, no records of the famine are available in the Bhagalpur Collectorate but the proceedings of the Provincial Council throw some light on the economic condition of the period. Referring to Bhagalpur, Mr. Harwood, the Supervisor reported "that the zamindars are ruined, the lands not having yielded half produce for the last 12 months". In November of the same year Mr. Harwood, while forwarding the abstract revenue settlement of the current year, attributes the deficit to the "impoverished, ruined and miserable state" of the district. Agricultural condition somewhat improved in the next year due to early rainfall but occasional droughts continued till the next

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* A Pargana is the territorial unit for fiscal administration. Bhagalpur district now consists of 27 parganas. [*Report of Survey and Settlement Operations of Bhagalpur* (1902—1910) p. 12.]

15 years. In 1775, there was severe drought as a result of which the stock of grains available, which was quite inadequate in normal years became still more inadequate in that year.

In May, 1779, another severe drought is mentioned which speaks of the bad condition of agriculture. On account of the drought conditions, the Bhadai crop was totally destroyed while there were bleak chances for the *Aghani* crop which is the main crop of the district. The then Collector, while pleading for a reduced revenue *jama* of the district, alluded to the bad economic position of the cultivators in these words, "the severe drought which we have experienced in this part of the country for sometime past, has alarmed the land-holders in general to so great degree that they absolutely refuse to make themselves responsible for the current year's revenue without a considerable remission.... The country being in this situation, I have in vain used my endeavours with the jamadars to prevail upon them to renew their leases agreeably to your orders. They absolutely refused, except on terms, which will reduce the revenue about one eighth or from Rs. 1,71,771 to 1,50,300." (Quoted in *Bengal District Gazetteer for Bhagalpur*, page 94).

In 1795 again a similar difficulty arose for which 50,000 maunds of rice were stored at different places on the road from Rajmahal to Monghyr. The next period from 1796 to 1865 may be said to be fairly prosperous for agriculturists in Bhagalpur inasmuch as there was no serious drought. The people of the district had taken to cultivation in a rather peaceful manner and the permanent settlement of land revenue of the district was effected during this period. Some of the landlords with whom settlement of land revenue was made, failed to discharge their obligations of paying the land revenue demand in time with the consequence that many of the original settlees had their estate sold away for arrears of land revenue. The new settlees in order to pay the land revenue *jama* began to enhance rent of tenants on various pleas with the consequence that the Government had to intervene and a new Act known as the Bengal Rent Act was passed in 1859 which granted security of tenure and of rent to certain classes of tenants.

The district passed through an ordeal of scarcity in 1865, the year of the Orissa famine but it was not so severe as in the south and the west. Mr. R. F. Cockerel was deputed in 1866 to enquire into the famine conditions in Bihar. He reported that the northern portion of the district bordering on Nepal suffered from pressure of want due to the failure of rice crop which was the main crop of that region. In other parts of Bhagalpur, there was a general distress caused by high prices of food-stuffs and fall in the demand for labour. In the north distress was enhanced by the failure of

the Marua crop due to the heavy rainfall of 1865 which provides the main food of the poorer section of the people. In order to relieve the distress of the people, Government granted temporary relief to the cultivators but it was quite inadequate. Relief was also organised by non-official agencies at the instance of the Commissioner of the Division. On the northern side of the Ganga, relief depots were stored with grains imported from other districts. The highest average number of persons receiving gratuitous relief in the district did not exceed 1,108 persons and the largest number of persons employed as labour for relief did not exceed 700. It was generally believed that unlike most other districts of Bihar, mortality was not great. On the south of the Ganga the high prices of grain were mostly due to export of grains to the western provinces by the *mahajans* who purchased the entire stock of the locality. According to the report of the Deputy Collector of Banka, 46,185 cwt. of grains was exported in September and October alone of that year to the western provinces through the East Indian Railway as against 13,783 cwt. during the same period of the previous year. The average price of rice rose to 13 seers per rupee as against 25 seers per rupee in the previous year, that of maize to 18 seers as against 31 seers and that of pulses to 11 seers as against 24 seers. In consequence there were deaths due to starvation and deficiency diseases. Relief, both official and non-official, was administered but the amount of relief in cash did not exceed Rs. 17,416.

The second period of the economic history of the district lasting from 1874—1900 is also marked by scarcities, famines, floods and epidemics like plague which appeared in India towards the close of the century. This period also saw the beginnings of a sound policy of famine relief mainly as a result of recommendations of the successive Famine Commissions appointed by the Government. The period also saw the initiation of policy of public works like extension of railways and irrigation with a view to provide security against famine and scarcities. This period also saw the enactments of the measures like the Bengal Tenancy Act 1885, Land Improvement Loans Act, 1873 and Agriculturists Loans Act, 1884 with a view to safeguard the interests of raiyats and to enable them to tide over financial difficulty for which they were forced to go to the money-lenders. The first famine of this period took place in 1874 and mostly affected the thanas of Supaul, Bangaon and Pratapganj in Supaul subdivision and Madhipura thana in Madhipura subdivision (Saharsa district now). The distress caused was acute and was due to the failure of the rice crop on account of insufficient rainfall of that year. Some of the parts now of Bhagalpur district were also affected. In order to meet the situation, Mr. Barlow, the Commissioner of the Division urged upon the Government to arrange supply of 730,000 maunds of foodgains to meet the requirements of the people for the next five months. The requisite supply of grains was promptly made

by the Government and some 20,000 persons were engaged in local public works. As a result of all these measures and the good *Bhadai* crops of maize and of rice the distress was liquidated.

The years 1875—1888 were fairly good for cultivators of the district, no famine or scarcity having been noticed all these years. The agriculturists of the district appeared to have been enjoying the fruits of security of rent and tenancy guaranteed to them by the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885. Improved means of transport and communication together with the maintenance of peace after years of disturbance was reflected in the improved condition of the peasantry. The general rise in the price of foodgrains benefited a large number of big cultivators. This spell of prosperity in the district was broken by two scarcities of 1889 and 1892 which affected Supaul and Madhipura subdivisions in North Bhagalpur. Loans under the Agricultural Loans Act were liberally advanced and public works for relief of the people were also commenced. Government and private relief alleviated the distress of the people.

The closing years of the 19th century were also marked by famines over a considerable part of India from which this district also did not escape. The area particularly affected was again Supaul subdivision now in Saharsha district. But the other parts were also touched. This was mainly due to the general rise in prices consequent upon the widespread failure of crops in Upper India which raised the prices in the locality in sympathy. The local supply of grains fell short on account of the unrestricted export of grains from this area. It is estimated that between October, 1896 and September, 1897 there was an excess of exports from the district to the extent of 83,000 tons. Relief from private sources was liberally given and more than Rs. 26,000 were distributed in grain or money doles from the Famine Insurance Fund. The total expenditure incurred was about Rs. 1,64,500 of which Government contributed 56,400 and the rest by the District Board.

In September, 1899, the eastern part of South Bhagalpur near about Colgong suffered severely from the effects of a heavy flood in the river Chandan. Owing to the bursting of rain and storm, the Chandan breached its embankments and flooded all areas near about Ghogha washing away the railway bridge near that place. It is estimated that nearly 1,800 lives were lost and more than 25,000 houses collapsed. Loss of cattle was appalling and as a consequence agriculture suffered badly. In order to meet this calamity and to enable the cultivators to start life afresh, loans were advanced liberally.

1900—1918.—The period 1900—1918 may on the whole be called prosperous for the cultivators of the district except a few minor

scarcities. During the first five years of this period, agriculture was in a thriving condition, the rainfall was sufficient and well distributed and crops were good. Besides these favourable factors, the district was generally immune from any severe epidemic. It seemed that the peace and stability in the country was leading to better agricultural conditions. The Survey and Settlement operations in the district were over during this period; these operations determined the rights and obligations of a large number of tenants who were previously rack rented by their landlords. *The Census Report*, 1911 (Vol. V, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Sikkim) mentions at page 130 : "In the first part of the decade, good harvests were reaped and a fair degree of prosperity prevailed except in 1902 when there was scanty and ill-distributed rainfall." The overall picture of the material condition of the people of Bihar and Orissa at this time was good as was observed in the same report : "In Bihar and Orissa, the first four years of the decade witnessed a period of fair agricultural prosperity, the number of births increased, while mortality gradually fell."

The most prominent feature of the economic history of the first ten years of this period (1900—1918) in so far as this district was concerned was the rise in prices which took place in 1906 and continued during the two succeeding years. While the average price of foodgrains varies little from the normal during the first half of the decade (1901—1905), it suddenly rose in 1906, in a marked degree—this rise becoming accentuated in 1907. In August of that year, the average price of rice became 58 per cent and that of maize 70 per cent above the previous normal. An important cause of the high prices of foodgrains was the poor harvest of foodgrains in general and of rice in particular during 1904—1907. Apart from the low outturn of foodgrains another contributory factor was the surplus funds which became available to the cultivators mainly as a result of extension of cultivation of crops like oilseeds, jute, etc., in place of rice. The increased facilities of communications and the malpractice of the dealers and merchants were also responsible for the rise in price of food-grains; large firms at the chief commercial centres purchased the entire stock in the village before the local dealer had any chance of offering his bid. During the first 10 years of this period, there were a few spurts of scarcities and floods which marred to some extent the even tenor of prosperity that was noticed in the district at the commencement of the present century. There was an apprehension of scarcity in Supaul subdivision in 1902 due to low rainfall and want of proper distribution. Due to the timely action taken by the Collector of the district, the distress was mitigated. Again towards the closing years of the first decade, the district suffered from one of the worst scarcities. Rainfall over the entire district was really half of the normal and the

result was that *Bhadai* crops failed entirely and the winter crop was also a complete failure in many places. Fortunately for the Kosi floods there were bumper crops of *Bhadai* and *Aghani* in the eastern portion of Madhipura and Supaul subdivision. This saved the district from one of the worst famines yet known. There was a large migration of landless labourers from the south of the district to the eastern portions of Madhipura and Supaul, and to rice lands of Bengal proper. According to the old Bhagalpur Gazetteer about 70,000 people had crossed the Ganga from the south to the north in search of work. As regards other sections of people, strain of this scarcity was met by the good crops of the previous years. Agriculture in Supaul and Madhipura was adversely affected by the high floods of 1906 and as a result the distress was severe so long as the floods lasted but when the flood water receded there was a considerable deposit of silt over the lands which gave a bumper *rabi* crop in the following year.

The period of good years for agriculture continued till 1917; crops were generally good from 1911—1917. But this period of prosperity was marred by occasional outbreaks of epidemic diseases like cholera and fever which raised the death-rate above the normal. Cholera was rampant in the northern portion of the district from 1915 and continued till 1916. An important event of this period which affected the material condition of the people of the district was the outbreak of the Great War between the Allied Powers and Germany in autumn of 1914 whose effect was felt after two years. At the beginning, there was not much effect of this war on the condition of agriculture but from 1917 onwards, prices of imported articles like cloth, salt and kerosene oil began to increase. All sections of population, particularly the poorer section comprising of the landless labourers and small artisans suffered as a result of the rise in the price of imported commodities.

An important effect of the rise in the price of foodgrains on agriculture during this period was the extension of agriculture in the district. Area under cultivation increased both in the south of the Ganga as also in the North in Kishanganj thana of Madhipura subdivision.

Writing on the movement of population of Bhagalpur district the Census Report of 1911 mentions that Kishanganj thana borders on the water-logged area but owing to the fact that the river Kosi has for some years past not shown any marked tendency to shift its channels, there has been a rapid expansion of cultivation in its south-eastern portion, which was till recently a desolate tract of swamp and jungle. The authority states that at

the time of the enumeration Kishanganj thana in 1911, there was an influx of non-resident cultivators who came with labourers to cut their crops. Similarly there was extension of cultivation in Bihpur and Colgong thanas of Sadar subdivision and to some extent in Banka subdivision, vide Census Report, 1911, Vol. V, page 131. This extension of cultivation was partially helped by the opening of railway line from Mathahi to Madhipura in Madhipura subdivision and the Bhagalpur-Mandar hill branch railway line connecting Bhagalpur with South Bhagalpur.

The closing year of this period (1900—1918) was very disastrous for the agriculturists of this district specially those inhabiting the areas south of the Ganga. In 1918, the rains were good till the middle of September when there was a complete cessation. In the south of the district, the rice crop was a failure and famine had to be declared in parts from June to December in the following year. Prices rose in sympathy and the people of the district were very much hard hit. To add to the misery of the people, the influenza epidemic took a heavy toll of the population which raised the death rate of 1918 to 52.2 per mille against an average of 32.9 per mille. As a consequence of these calamities, agriculture of the district suffered a great set-back and the progress made during the previous years was checked. The Government started relief works and made liberal advances to the people to tide over the period of difficulty. The large emigration from the district coupled with the check to immigration from other districts relieved to some extent the problem of scarcity. Large quantities of rice had to be imported from Burma and other eastern provinces, though normally the district used to export large quantities of rice every year to other provinces. The paucity of the rolling stock during the closing years of the Great War (1914—1918) aggravated the situation by raising the price of food-grains and imported articles.

1919—1929.—The decade started with a famine whose effect was most acutely felt in South Bhagalpur and ended with the commencement of a world wide depression which affected agriculture very badly. The failure of the crops in the previous years combined with unprecedented high prices of all indispensable commodities produced acute distress in the beginning of the year among the poor cultivators and the landless classes. The situation was at its worst about June and began to improve after the Bhadai harvest in September and October. The winter crop in December and January of that year brought great relief. The severity of the famine can be judged from the fact that the price of rice shot up to 3½ seers per rupee in some places during July and August against 6 seers in April. Famine was declared in the south of the district. Loans were liberally advanced during the year specially under the Agriculturists' Loans Act to

enable the people to tide over the period of distress. A sum of Rs. 10,33,327 alone was distributed among the famine stricken people of the district (vide Land Revenue Administration Report for 1919-20, page 16).

During the rest of the period from 1920—1929, the condition of agriculture in the district was on the whole satisfactory. According to the Census Report of 1931 in six years out of ten, the rice crop with which the economic prosperity of province is largely bound up was at least up to normal and the year 1922 was memorable for a bumper harvest estimated at 20 per cent above the normal. What was true of the province as a whole was also true of this district as well except the slight damage caused by flood to Madhipura and Supaul subdivision in 1921. Agriculture in Supaul and Banka suffered to some extent by floods of 1927 and 1929 respectively. 1924 and 1928 were rather disappointing for South Bhagalpur inasmuch as the crops were below normal either due to inadequate or ill-distributed rainfall. Otherwise the climatic conditions were generally favourable throughout the period (1921—1931). There was also a marked improvement in the general health of the people, the incidence of deaths from Cholera and Small-pox having declined substantially. There was no visitation of plague during this period. Prices of foodgrains which were ruling pretty high in the beginning of this period (1919—1929) were lowered to some extent due to the favourable condition of the harvests. Agriculture in this district was also favourably affected by the opening of two branch railway lines one in north and the other in the south. Murliganj was a centre of trade in Jute, Maize and Rice. Madhipura subdivision with a good turn over of pulses and other grains was connected with Bihariganj an important trade centre in Purnea district. It is to be noted that owing to breach in the railway lines between Mathahi and Madhipura and between Baptiahi and Partapganj, the branch lines connecting these places were closed. In the south, the branch line between Bhagalpur and Mandar hill which was closed during the Great War re-opened in 1924 which enabled the agricultural produce of South Bhagalpur and Santhal Parganas to be marketed in better markets.

1929—1939.—During this period, agriculture of the district was very badly affected due mainly to the agricultural depression which commenced from 1929. Though the prices of industrial goods, all over the world had been falling since 1924, the prices of foodgrains more particularly rice ruled high. But this disparity between the price of foodgrains and other commodities could not continue long and the falling cost of living had begun affecting agriculture. This agriculture depression was the part of the great depression which ruled practically over the entire world and was due to deeper international causes. It continued unabated till 1934 and the prices of agricultural produce came stumbling

down till it reached its lowest level in 1935. The result of this fall in prices of foodgrains was disastrous for cultivators. The distirct being primarily agricultural suffered terribly as a result of the agricultural depression. It affected both the landlords and the tenants because none of them could meet their obligations with lesser income from sale of produce. Arrears of rent began to accumulate and the landlords filed rent-suits in thousands in order to escape from the laws of limitation. An important effect of this depression was that lands at first began to pass under the possession of the landlords and money-lenders till the landlords and Mahajans refused to file suits. The net result was that the demand for lands declined.

An important effect of this abnormal fall in the price of food-grains was the extension of the cultivation of sugarcane in place of rice in a number of places in Colgong, Amarpur and Banka Thanas. A number of cane-crushing factories were also started in the district but they could not consume the entire output of sugar-cane. An important event of this period was the Bihar Earthquake of 1934 in which mostly the residents of the towns and cities were badly affected. The earthquake materially affected the agriculture of a few places in North Bhagalpur when some of the river beds were raised and some new channels were revived in their places. Lands in some thanas deteriorated as a result of sand oozing out of the surface of the earth. The Government enacted the Natural Calamities Act, 1934 under which liberal amounts were given as loans and as gratuitous relief to persons whose houses or lands had been damaged by the earthquake. Both official and non-officials were organised for mitigating the sufferings of the earthquake sufferers. But it was the towns people who mostly benefited out of these measures. The fall in prices not only affected the producers but also consumers of food-grains; the former could not make profits out of their production and the latter suffered on account of the fall in the demand for their labour. It was a fact that as consumers they could get their requisite food at less cost but a fall in the demand for labour led to acute unemployment among the agricultural labourers and the artisans of the villagers who are connected with the village economy. The effect of this depression was simply disastrous for the cultivators of the district and the whole country-side appeared to be stagnating from 1929—1937.

Period from 1938—45.—As the result of the economic depression and the heavy fall in the prices of foodgrains not only did the burden of rural debt increase but also the relation between landlords and tenants, became embittered. Inability of the tenant to pay the landlord's and Mahajan's dues led to large-scale transference of lands to the possession of non-cultivators like landlords and Mahajans. The birth of the Kisan movement and the new

consciousness among the tenantry gave rise to agrarian disputes. These disputes related mostly to the demand by the tenants for possession over *Bakast* lands, to the tenant's opposition to payment at an enhanced rate and the refusal of the tenants to pay rent on the ground of failure of landlords to maintain irrigation works. The Land Revenue Administration Report of Bihar and Orissa for 1934-35 mentions that in Bhagalpur the relationship was satisfactory on the whole though such disputes between Sri Sukhraj Rai and his tenants in Sadar subdivision regarding possession of land continued. In the Banka subdivision, there was a good deal of recrimination between landlords and tenants about the failure to pay the rent, the tenants charging the landlords as responsible for the difficulties of the tenants owing to their disregard for irrigation. The cultivators had great grievance about their lot to meet the situation. The State Government amended the Bengal Tenancy Act in 1934 with a view to confer certain rights on tenants and thus remove the causes of friction between landlords and tenants. The problem of scaling down the rent and restoration of *Bakast* lands was met by a further amendment of the B.T. Act in 1938 and enactment of a special law known as the Bihar Restoration of *Bakast* lands and Reduction of Arrears of Rent Act, 1938, the former scaling down the rent of the tenants' holding in proportion to the fall in the price of agricultural produce, wiping away all enhancements of rents between a certain period and granting remission of rent of lands which had deteriorated on account of floods and failure of Irrigation works. The latter Act was meant to restore the *Bakast* lands acquired through sale by landlords during certain period to the former tenants on reduced consideration and reducing arrears of rent of the tenants under certain conditions. In South Bhagalpur, it was found that the Santhals' lands were being transferred to landlords and money-lenders for the failure of the Santhals to pay their dues on account of fall in the price of agricultural produce and the State made suitable changes in law on the lines of the Santhal Parganas Regulation to prevent alienation of the lands of the Santhals to non-Santhals.

The popular ministry was anxious to run a Welfare State. The agriculturist debtors were sought to be given relief by passing the Bihar Money Lenders' Act, 1938 by which business of money-lending was controlled and conditions of loan and their repayments were laid down in favour of the debtors. Similarly, greater immunity was conferred on the agriculturists in the matter of attachment of their property for their debts to the money-lenders.

The cultivators of this district like those of other districts in the State were benefited to a great extent as a result of these ameliorative steps taken by the Government. The benefit was however, not uniform and fell far short of the requirements. The laws passed were mostly short-termed measures which were en-

forced in a mechanical manner. The hiatus between the ruler and the ruled and the woodenness of the bureaucracy that partially stood in the way could only be liquidated through process of time and more democratisation of the bases of administration. But still it has to be admitted that they provided better incentives to the cultivators and the result was beneficial for agriculture of the district. The gradual rise in the price of foodgrains noticeable since 1938 and the World War heralded a period of boon for the agriculturists.

The condition of agriculture was on the whole better during 1938—45 as compared to that of 1929—1937. This was more due to the rise in prices of foodgrains coming in the wake of the commencement of the second World War rather than to the increase in the outturn of agriculture produce. The high price of foodgrains increased the profits from agriculture and the landlords and money-lenders were economically worse off in comparison to their previous condition.

Heavy floods on the north and drought in the south affected the yield of agricultural produce. In 1938-39, the failure of the Hathiya rains affected the winter crop and rains in the winter affected the rabi crops. Due to high floods and heavy rainfall in the north there was consideratie damage to properties. Government organised relief and house building advances were given. Under the stress of high prices, there was extension of agriculture both in the south and also in the north. By applying the Private Irrigation Act, the State could construct many irrigation works in the zamindari of big landlords. Though the condition of agriculturists was better, their relation with the landlords was not good. The causes of conflict were mostly due to the distribution of produce of lands held on produce rent (*batai*), and the landlords, failure to repair irrigation works (*gilandazi*). The growing consciousness among the kisans was also responsible for this tendency. There was grave dissatisfaction among the tenants of the Darbhanga Raj and Sonbarsa Raj inasmuch as they had settled lands reclaimed by tenants with other parties. Applications for commutation of produce rent into money rent increased because a large number of tenants wanted to be free from uncertainties of distribution of produce by the landlord's *Amlas*. The landlords had, as a class, neglected their share of obligation of maintaining the irrigation facilities as they were sure of their rent in kind. A sum of Rs. 58,650 was distributed in 1939-40 under the Land Improvement Loans Act mostly for reclamation of lands in Kosi area which had become covered with *Kans* and other types of grass. There were heavy floods in the Kosi in 1939-40 which did considerable damage in Supaul subdivision and parts of Sadar subdivision. Some 570 houses were affected in Supaul alone. Relief in cash and kind was administered. Due to heavy floods in North Bhagalpur during this period the Railway communication

between Mansi and Koparia on the Manshi-Saharsa section of the N. E. Railway was suspended during the rainy season of 1938-39 and this unsatisfactory condition continued till 1954. Unfavourable circumstances continued in 1940-41, the north suffering from heavy floods and the south from inadequate rains. Increase of price of foodgrains and the reduction of rent helped the improvement of the condition of the agriculturists, though production was not adequate. The impact of this increase in prices was not uniform on all sections of the people; the bigger cultivators were comparatively better off than small producers and landless labourers. The latter did not produce enough for their further requirements and hence they had to buy at higher prices. Other necessaries of life such as cloth, kerosene oil, sugar, etc., were also registering an increase in prices since 1940-41 which adversely affected the material condition of the small cultivators and landless labourers. The State introduced measures for effecting control over the necessaries of life but they were not very successful. An important fact to be noticed in this period was the reluctance on the part of many landlords to recover rent through court because changes in the B.T. Act were working to their disadvantage.

Civil Disturbances.—Material condition of the people of this district was also vitally affected by the civil disturbances of 1942 and abnormal rise in prices of foodgrains mainly of rice in 1943 in sympathy with the Bengal Famine of 1943. The civil disturbances interrupted the railway and telegraph communication which hampered the trade of the district. The transport bottleneck due to the great war made most of the essentials of life immobile with the consequence that the price which was itself high became still higher though the producing classes like the agriculturists gained as a result of the high prices of foodgrains, the small cultivators were in a disadvantageous position as they had to purchase many articles for their requirement in the black market. The inflationary tendency noticed during the war led to greater profiteering and the consequential steep rise of prices in 1943. To crown all, the uncertainties coming in the wake of the Bengal Famine of 1943 led to large scale hoarding on the part of the bigger cultivators and in spite of the Government steps to control the prices of foodgrains, prices continued rising steeply. Due to this unprecedented rise in the prices of foodgrains and other necessaries of life, the agriculturists, middle-men and other businessmen prospered. The price of agricultural land increased threefold and a sort of speculation in agricultural land was distinctly noticeable. Waste lands of the district for which there were no purchasers in the past, were also settled with the cultivators. Such lands were settled in Banka, Supaul and Madhipura subdivisions for which the State advanced loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Waste Lands Reclamation Act. Wages of agricultural labourers also increased in the wake of the

rise in prices, though somewhat late. The urban dwellers and people with fixed income were the hardest hit due to this rise in the prices of foodgrains. Government measures for fixing the maximnm prices of foodgrains, licensing of dealers in grains, procurement, monopoly-purchase, rationing of foodgrains in the urban area and opening of fair prices shops in selected areas failed to remove the suffering of the people in low-income groups.

Apart from the measures for better distribution of foodgrains and the fixing of their maximum price, the State undertook a number of measures with a view to increase the production of food-grains. Government advanced vast sums of money to the cultivators to enable them to construct wells under the Grow More Food-Campaign started by the Central Government. Though the amount advanced under this heading in this district was considerable, the number of wells constructed were few in number. In a large number of cases, persons receiving the advances diverted the amount to other personal uses such as constructing their buildings or marrying off their children. In subsequent years, the Grow More Food Department began to advance loans not in cash but in kind in the form of coal, cement and ironbars, etc., but, unfortunately for the district, the advantage to the agriculturist was not appreciable.

Measures taken for increase in the supply of food.—Under the spurt of high prices, the area under cultivation increased as a large number of persons borrowed huge sums of money under the Waste Lands Reclamation Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act. In this way some lands in Katoria and Banka thanas of Banka subdivision and waste lands of Madhipura subdivision were brought under the plough. With a view to destroy hogs, deer and other wild animals which caused damage to the standing crops in the north fire-arms were supplied liberally to the cultivators. During this period, the State Agriculture Department also introduced many improved tools and implements for better farming and for better irrigation. Big cultivators were supplied *Rahats*, pumping sets, tractors, etc., on suitable terms but these benefits did not reach the small and medium cultivators. Yield per acre was also sought to be increased by the distribution of chemical manures through the Co-operative and Agriculture Department. In spite of all these measures, the total production of food-grains in this district was not keeping pace with the requirements of the increasing population and the result was abnormal rise in the price of foodgrains. The Government measures for better distribution of foodgrains such as price control, procurement, monopoly purchase, etc., led to black-marketing and profiteering on the part of producers and merchants who turned into hoarders and the corruption and inefficiency in the Supply and Price Control Departments added to the suffering of the people, more particularly of the landless labourers, artisans and small cultivators. The

bigger cultivators of the district were very much benefited by the continued rise in prices of foodgrains and more prudent amongst them invested their surplus profits in improved cultivations and in wiping out their debts. It can be stated that this unusual rise in the price of foodgrains over so many years had led to the reduction of the rural debts in many cases.

1945—54.—The war came to a close in August, 1945 and steps were taken by the Government to convert the war-economy of this district to a peace-economy. The establishment of the national Government at the centre in 1946 and the return of the Congress party to power in Bihar had a far-reaching effect upon agriculture of the district. Measures for improvement of agriculture adopted by the bureaucratic regime of the previous years were accelerated and the working of the various departments was liberalised. Large sums of money were provided for agriculture and allied departments by the popular ministers and the average cultivator of the district like his compatriot in the whole of India was expecting a millennium for himself in the years to come but his expectations were not fully realised.

The grant of Dominion Status on August 15, 1947 and the establishment of popular Government both in the Centre as also in the State has brought about great development in the agriculture of the district. The acute shortage of foodgrains and their continued high prices led to an all-out effort on the part of the Government; larger sums were placed at the disposal of the different departments so as to bring more lands under food crops and to increase the yield per acre of each crop. In 6 out of 8 years during 1945—53, rainfall of the district was less than normal, i.e., 48.65" per year. Apart from this South Bhagalpur suffered from insufficiency of rainfall, while North Bhagalpur suffered on account of floods in the Kosi (vide Bihar Statistical Hand Book, 1951, page 7). In spite of unfavourable rainfall over so many years, the condition of agriculture was favourable during all these years. But this prosperity was not shared by all sections of the people. Landless labourers, small cultivators and people having fixed income suffered terribly as a result of the shortage of food-stuffs and the unprecedented rise in the price of foodgrains. The statement in the Land Revenue Administration Reports for these years to the effect that "the material condition of the people during these years was on the whole satisfactory and the unprecedented rise in the price of agriculture products benefited the agriculturists" should be taken with some reservation. Though as a result of high prices, the wages of the agricultural labourers and the profits of the small cultivators increased, their increased earnings were quite insufficient for meeting the enhanced price of other necessities of life. Prices of land increased three fold and the transfer of lands became very rare in this district. The

State Government opened its purse-strings and huge amount was advanced by way of land improvement and agriculturists' loans in the district. A major portion of the district allotment of Rs. 25,000 for land improvement loans was advanced to people of Madhipura and Supaul police stations for reclamation of waste-lands while another sum of Rs. 28,000 was sanctioned for food relief (Land Revenue Administration Report for 1944-45, page 4, Art. 10). In order to increase the outturn of foodgrains, area under cultivation was extended by reclaiming waste-lands, both in North Bhagalpur and in South Bhagalpur. For increasing the yield per acre of lands irrigation works were undertaken both by the Revenue Department and by the Agricultural Department of the State Government. In Bhagalpur, repairs to *bandhs*, channels, tanks, etc., were effected at a cost of Rs. 21,836 mentions the Land Revenue Administration Report for 1944-45. Minor Irrigation projects under the Grow More Food Campaign were also undertaken during this period. According to Land Revenue Administration Report for 1950-51, 574 schemes of irrigation were completed in Banka and Sadar subdivisions. In Madhipura 54 minor irrigation schemes were completed. In Supaul, a *bandh* and a canal were constructed. The entire allotment of Rs. 8,60,000 for the district was spent on these works. There was deterioration in the material condition of the people during the year 1950-51 due to drought and excessive rainfall. Heavy rainfall in the beginning damaged the *Bhadai* crops and drought thereafter damaged the Aghani crops. Hathia rains failed completely. Prices of agriculture produce, consumer-goods, staple food-crops and other essential commodities continued to be high. Middle class families and all those with fixed incomes found it hard to make both ends meet. In order to relieve shortage of foodgrains, Government opened fair-price shops in order to enable the people to purchase grains at reasonable prices but there was little relief to the people due to insufficient supplies, poor qualities of grains and defective methods of distribution. Relief work on a liberal scale was undertaken. Minor irrigation works were extended and Taccavi and L.I. Loans were given liberally (L.R.A. Report for 1950-51, Art. 12). A few enterprising cultivators, acting under the spurt of high prices of agricultural produce purchased tractors and pumping sets for improved agriculture and better irrigation. In South Bhagalpur, the Agriculture Department intensified its effort in construction of wells, *Bandhs*, pynes, Ahars, etc., under its Grow More Food Scheme. The same department has been trying to increase the yield per acre by distribution of better seeds and chemical manure, bone-meal and compost. It is said that a total of more than 125 irrigation schemes valued at more than 3-4 lakhs of rupees have been undertaken in Banka subdivision alone.

Though production was not quite satisfactory till 1953, the favourable rainfall of this year and the combined effect of these

measure resulted in a bumper Aghani and Rabi crops in 1953-54 though *Bhadai* crop was below normal. It had a favourable effect on lowering the price of rice and wheat which benefited the people with fixed incomes, though it diminished the profits from agriculture; the price of rice and wheat touching the lowest level of this period at Rs. 16 per maund for rice and Rs. 12 per maund of wheat. As a result of the execution of the First Five-Year Plan since 1950-51 the agriculture of the district has received very great fillip, there has been a vigorous drive for irrigation and better farming in the district. Improved methods like Japanese methods of cultivation of paddy have been popularised at a number of places and their results are expected. Liberal financial assistance in the form of Land Improvement Loans, Agriculturist's loans and waste-lands reclamation loans are being given to the cultivators, free chemical manures for demonstration purposes and better seeds are being provided to the cultivators so that agricultural production might be increased. Irrigation in South Bhagalpur has been extended by the combined efforts of the Agriculture and Revenue Department. In order to bring about the all round improvement of the village people, Community Development Block has been created in Banka and Sadar subdivisions and National Extension Service Projects started at a number of places. All these measures have helped agriculture and with the completion of these schemes, the condition of the peasantry will improve substantially. In order to protect North Bhagalpur from the recurrent floods in the Kosi, work in the Kosi Multi-purpose project prividing flood-control, better irrigation, better navigation and cheap electrici y to the people has been started in the beginning of 1955. The effect of the completion of this multi-purpose project on the life of the people will have to be watched in the future.

INDUSTRY

A discussion of the Economic Trends in the district must also give a brief account of the state of the industry. It has been mentioned that out of the total population of the district, 3,505,104 persons were depending upon occupations other than agriculture according to the Census of 1951. Of these 81,072 or 22.8 per cent of the total non-agriculture population were engaged in production other than cultivation which expressed as a ratio of the total population comes to only 5 per cent. Judging from this, it can be seen that the condition of industry has very little effect upon the economic condition of this district. This leads to an inference that like other North Bihar districts Bhagalpur is mostly rural in character.

All the same a brief account of the state of industry is essential for getting a picture of the economic life of the people of this

district. There is no large-scale industry in the district, a large-scale industry being one which uses large producing units, employs much capital per worker, adopts mass production techniques and scientific management and research. All the industries of the district belong to the category of small-scale and cottage industry, the former employing wholly or partly hired labour exceeding ten in number, working with the aid of some power but not employing much capital per worker, while the latter employing wholly or partially the members of the family using simplest of tools worked with hand of some sort of power. A more detailed account of Industries has been given in a separate chapter. As mentioned in the foregoing pages, the national Government established in 1947 took the first opportunity of bringing a rapid all round development of the country. Accordingly, Government of India formulated the First Five-Year Plan (1951—56) and the Second Five Year-Plan (1956—61).

The impact of the two plans on the economic life of the district can be better visualised against the background of the outlay and its achievements in the State as a whole. A total sum of Rs. 73.28 crores was spent over the different sectors of the State economy during the First Plan period. In the Second Five-Year Plan the total financial outlay for the whole State was fixed at Rs. 190.22 crores which was later on reduced to Rs. 175.22 crores after making necessary adjustment for territories transferred as a result of the State Reorganisation and for meeting the 'stress and strain' in the economy.

So far as the development of this district is concerned a C. D. block was opened at Sabour in April, 1955 covering 147 villages with an area of 80 square miles and 71,000 population. Similarly, N. E. S. blocks were formed in Naugachaia, Banka and Amarpur in 1955 covering 263 villages with a total area of 329 square miles and population of 235,000. In 1956, blocks were opened in Gopalpur P.-S. within Sadar subdivision and in Katoria P.-S. in Banka subdivision covering a total of 452 villages with an area of 384 square miles and population of 129,000. In 1957, Bihpur and Shahkund blocks in Sadar subdivision and Rajaun block in Banka subdivision were brought under development programme, Bihpur and Rajaun comprising of 267 villages with an area of 267 square miles and a total population of 155,000.

Since then other blocks have been constituted in Colgong P.-S. and the remaining *thanas* are likely to be brought under development programme by 1963. It has been estimated that by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan nearly half the area of the district has been covered by blocks where intensive development works are being undertaken. It was not possible to make an independent appraisal of the impact of any C. D. Block but it may be generally,

mentioned that there has been a lot of improvement in the economy of the rural people because of the blocks. It is, however, still a common idea among the rural people that the blocks are still run, more or less by the officials and that they will wait to be spoon-fed.

So far as the district of Saharsa, which formed part of Bhagalpur till 1955, is concerned, till October 1957 a total of 537 villages with an area of 967 square miles and population of 757,000 were brought under development programme of the State. Developmental work under the two plans was undertaken over the following heads in order of priorities:—

(*a*) Agriculture and community development.
(*b*) Irrigation.
(*c*) Power.
(*d*) Industry.
(*e*) Transport and communication.
(*f*) Social Services.
(*g*) Miscellaneous.

A sum of Rs. 4,69,000 was spent over Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Irrigation and Reclamation of waste-lands in Bhagalpur district out of a total developmental expenditure of Rs. 19,56,000. But nearly 40 per cent of this expenditure was incurred over State and Project Headquarters leaving a balance of 11 lakhs or 60 per cent to be spent over the different items of development work in the district. Similarly, in Saharsa district, out of total developmental expenditure of a million and a half incurred till October, 1957, Rs. 5,28,000 or roughly 33 per cent of the total was spent on State and Project Headquarters alone leaving a balance of Rs. 10,00,000 to be spent over the different items of the economy.

It has to be pointed out that much of the expenditure incurred over State and Project Headquarters comprised of expenditure incurred for construction of buildings and for appointment of extra staff at the district, subdivisional and village-level which formed the nucleus organisation. Much of the expenditure incurred during the plan periods was over Revenue account leaving a small margin for Capital account. Taking the State as a whole, revenue and capital expenditure were in the ratio of 52 to 48 in the First Plan period, while it was 56 to 44 per cent during the Second Plan Period.*

Achievements in Terms of Physical Targets

Achievements of the two plans in this district in the background of the achievement in the State as a whole were far from satisfactory. What is true of the State as a whole is also true of this

*Third Draft Five-Year Plan for Bihar.

district with minor adjustments. Performance of the State in the more important sectors was somewhat disappointing. In the field of agriculture, the State produced foodgrains to the extent of 5 million tons as against a target of 7 millions tons during 1955-56. Similarly, in the sphere of irrigation as against a target of 6.3 million acres of land to be brought under irrigation, the maximum area irrigated in Bihar never exceeded 4.9 acres during the plan period.

During the Second Plan period, the target for additional food production was fixed at 1.5 million tons. It is highly improbable to say that the State has achieved its target of producing 1.5 million additional tons of foodgrains. So far as the districts of Bhagalpur and Saharsa are concerned it can be assumed that agricultural production was short of the target fixed. During the last decade bad monsoon and bad investment in this sector did not bring the anticipated results. For increasing food production, stress was laid on application of fertilisers both chemical, compost and green manure. Thus, till 1958, chemical fertilisers and improved seeds to the tune of nearly 30,000 maunds and 26,000 maunds respectively were distributed among the block areas. There is still a great complaint that the fertilisers are not easily available. The importance of compost pits and green manures, easily available has to be brought home to the villagers. An investigation made as to the concrete utilisation of Waste Land Reclamation loans did not yield any encouraging result. Loans have been distributed and reclamation figures have been added more as paper work and the officers concerned hardly made a spot enquiry if the money was actually invested for land reclamation and if so, what has been the increased yield. The same observation could also be made partially for the other loans for land improvement.

As a measure for increased agricultural production minor irrigation works were undertaken during the last ten years. The scheme of minor irrigation work was executed through the Revenue and Agriculture Departments of the State. Loans and subsidies were given for construction of wells, *Ahars* and pynes but barring few cultivators, others utilised the loans for other purposes. There has been, no doubt, a big leakage of this money not being fully utilised for the ear-marked purpose, As regards the medium and major irrigation schemes in the district, mention may be made of Tarar—Sonoula Scheme completed under the First Plan period and Hanuman Dam Reservoir project in Belhar P.-S. of Banka subdivision. The former scheme enables the water of river Gohira to irrigate about 10,000 acres of land in Sonoula thana and the latter when completed at a cost of more than 3 crores will irrigate about 30,000 acres of land in Monghyr and Bhagalpur districts. Kajhia Irrigation Scheme in Banka subdivision has been completed which will provide the surplus water of the Chandan for

the contiguous villages. In spite of the above steps taken by the State, there is much scope for development of minor irrigation works in the district which will ensure water for cultivation.

No progress was made in having Seed Multiplication Farms in the district during the period though the existing farms for demonstration were strengthened. Improved methods of cultivation such as deep ploughing and Japanese method of cultivation have been popularised in a few areas specially in the development blocks but the general mass of the cultivators has not yet taken to this reformed practice. With a view to step up production, credit to the cultivators has been made available through loans given by Government and the Co-operative Societies. Government loans under Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists Loans Act have been liberally given but it has benefited only a few enterprising cultivators who have easy access to the officers and clerks. The poor cultivators who have no contact with the Government offices have not derived any benefit.

Co-operative Movement in the district has received a great fillip during the period of the plans if the growing number has a significance. Till 1957-58, 309 new co-operative Societies with a membership of 16,997 were registered which advanced loans to the tune of Rs. 4,69,000. Two Central Banks at Banka and Bhagalpur have been reorganised and reconstituted. As a measure of economy, the two banks have been amalgamated. Big godowns have been constructed at the premises of these banks to serve as a warehouse for grains. In some blocks, such as Sabour a warehouse for storing the produce of the members has been constructed. It is yet to be seen how many cultivators join the Co-operative Societies and agree to store and sell grains through the sale societies. From enquiry conducted under the suspices of the Planning Forum T. N. B. College, Bhagalpur, it was found that large members of people have kept themselves aloof from the Co-operative Societies at Sabour under Sabour Block. Bahadurpur Co-operative Society provided good promise inasmuch as its members received sufficient rent from licensees of Ganja cultivation as also from owners of the brick kilns. The village is situated within a radius of two miles from Bhagalpur and is peopled mostly by *Koeris*, who are hardy cultivators. Figures for repayment of loan are not available. There is still an idea that Co-operative Societies and banks are meant to be drawn upon without much obligation of repayment. In spite of the numerical increase of the societies it is difficult to say if the movement has struck deep roots. The members were candid enough to confess that some members have formed a Co-operative Farming Society in the village, but no work is being done as tube-well construction is held up due to departmental delay.

A beginning has been made in the matter of consolidation of holdings in this district. A pilot project for consolidation of holdings was started in Sabour Block during the First Five-Year Plan and the scattered holdings have been consolidated, areas demarcated and the rights of the different interest safeguarded in Records of Rights. Ideas about consolidation of holdings are still fluid and without statuary obligation, it will probably take years to win over the tenants with their traditional orthodox ideas to consolidation of holdings.

In the sphere of development of industry, not much has been achieved during the plan period. There is no large scale industry yet in this district and in Saharsa which formed a part of this district before in spite of potentiality. The only industries are small-scale and village industries. Among the small-scale industries of the district mention may be made of the rice-milling, oil-crushing, flour-milling, small sugar factories, textile mills, engineering works and printing.

Sugar factories at Amarpur and Colgong have been in existence for the last few years. These factories are in the private-sector and there has been very little impact of the two plans on them except an increase in production due to general increase in prices. A few of them have taken advantage of the loans under the State-Aid to Industries Act for expansion and meeting the depreciation charges. The loans under the State-Aid to Industry Act are not very popular with the industrialist as great delay takes place in sanctioning of loans. Rice mills at Mirjanhat and at Barahat in Bhagalpur and a few in Saharsa district have been carrying on their existence. No progress has been registered in this direction because the State policy is to encourage hand-pounding of rice and oil-pressing through industrial co-operatives. During the period of low agricultural production, the rice-mills and oil-mills suspended their work for want of raw materials. It is only recently that they have commenced operation. It cannot be definitely stated as to what has been the effect of the two plans on these industries, though it looks, the effect has been rather depressing. Some have been registered mainly as a result of the new awareness on the part of the people, in the matter of setting up of small power driven hullers for paddy husking and of flour mills both in the urban and rural areas. The effect has been unemployment to workers in these fields. Nothing very particular has been done in the matter of organising industrial co-operatives the only exception being the Oil Men's Co-operative Society at Mirjanhat and Sultanganj. The Wardha ghani, much advertised by the Village-Industries Board proved a failure according to the testimony of the Mukhia of the Bahadurpur Panchayat because the cost of oil produced was much higher than the mill-produced oil.

Bhagalpur district has enjoyed reputation for the products of its cottage industries such as silk weaving, cotton-weaving, metal wares, etc. But like all other cottage industries their condition was not satisfactory due to want of raw-material, credit and marketing facilities. As a part of the development programme, attempt to organise the weavers and other industrial groups into some sort of industrial co-operative is being made during these years but it is very much doubtful if any marked success has been achieved, in spite of the fact that some silk goods from Bhagalpur are marketed abroad. Our artisans are reluctant to joint hese industrial co-operatives because they will have to conform to certain rules and regulations. They would much rather borrow credit from private Mahajans and sell their products through them than borrow from some Co-operative Society. The cause of this apathy, to our mind, is the more direct and personal approach in case of Mahajans and the ease with which the advances are received. Though some progress in organising industrial co-operatives of oil-men and weavers has been shown during the plan period but it appears, the progress is on paper only. Moreover it is alleged that mal-practices have crept in with a view to take advantage of the rebate given to the co-operatives on production. It is reported that oil produced in mill and cloth produced with power looms are allowed to pass as being the products of the co-operatives.

In the sphere of small-scale industry, the State has proposed to set up a spun silk mill at Bhagalpur in the public sector but nothing has been heard about the step taken in this direction. If the proposal materialises, it will help silk-rearing and will enable all the wastes to be utilised. Not much has been done in the matter of substituting power looms in place of handlooms nor have the weavers taken to improved looms. Some of the silk mills in the private sector have availed of the financial assistance given under the State Aid to Industries Act. They have increased their output in recent years but it is due to increase in demand. Silk rearing is not practised on a wide scale and the weavers have to import cocoons and yarns from outside. Erri and Mulberry products are made from imported yarns. The indigenous Tassar silk and Bafta industry of the region have not made much progress though in the past their products were in great demand. There is a great scope for increasing the production of Tassar, Mulberry and Erri Silk yarns. In Banka subdivision, there is a scope for rearing of silk cocoons and spinning yarns out of them but not much has been done in this direction. Government Silk Institute established at Bhagalpur has been expanded during the plan period and there has been an increase in the number of trainees. The Institute provides training in reeling, weaving and dyeing and demonstrates the use of improved appliances and new designs.

Buto the trainees coming out have mostly been absorbed in service, hardly any of them has taken to independent production. Bihar State Khadi and Village Industries Board has started a production centreo in Bhagalpur town but it is not very popular. Not much has been done in the matter of starting small workshops though production centre for manufacture of buckets has been started. There is scope for engineering workshop inasmuch as the demand for spare parts of automobiles and cycles have increased in recent years. There is some scope for establishment of ceramic industry both in the town and in rural areas for which china clay is available in Patherghata in Colgong P.-S. and Samukhia in Banka P.-S. Supply of cheap power and better communication may induce investors in this direction.

There is some scope for developing co-operatives in brick burning and biri-making in selected areas of this district during the plan period. Building industry has received a great fillip both on private and on Government account. Demand for bricks and other materials has increased. Main problem of these industries is the problem of finance, raw-material and marketing which can be effectively tackled by industrial co-operatives.

As a part of the programme of technical education, Leela Deep Narayan Technical School has been started out of the generosity of the Trust and grant from Government. Training in certain trades such as mechanics, fitters, tracers, electricians is imparted. Besides this the State Government have also started an Engineering School providing for a diploma course in Civil Engineering. An Engineering College providing a Four Years' degree course in Civil Mechanical and Electrical Engineering has been started. In the matter of power very little has been done during the last ten years to increase its supply both for domestic and industrial purposes. Greater urbanisation and start of new small industries have led to an increase in the demand for electric power. As far back as 1931, an Electric Supply Company under private management was started in the headquarters of the district but its machinery and equipments have highly depreciated. In sprte of increase in the installed capacity in recent years, it is unable to cope with the increased demand. The State Government have advanced loans to the Company to expand its production. In view of the new industrial policy of Government there is a proposal to take over this concern and manage it as a Government concern, but nothing has been done in this direction. Very slow progress has been made in the distribution of electric power generated by the D. V. C. and distributed by the State Electricity Board. Power generated has been brought upto Sultanganj and installations have been made in a number of places. Among the places electrified from the D. V. C. are the towns of Banka and Sultanganj as against the great progress made in this direction in the other districts.

The State Electricity Board has set up small generating plants at Saharsa and at Birpur, the former electrifying the towns of Saharsa, Madhipura and Supaul while the latter supplying electricity to the Government colony at Kosi headquarters. With the extension of electricity to Colgong, Pirpainty, Bihpur and Naugachia as a consequence of the Kosi Project tube-well irrigation and small industries can be started. But the progress in this direction has been very slow. The development of communications and transport are vital to the development of this district. By 1956, the total mileage of roads under the P. W. D. was 3,703 miles besides the local roads maintained by the local authorities. Some progress has been recorded in the matter of construction and improvement of roads in this district during the plan period.

It is expected that by 1961, road mileage under P. W. D. would increase to 5,100 miles besides 1,730 miles under katcha road*. During the period under review a number of important routes have been provincialised and tar macadamised. Roads connecting Bhagalpur with Colgong and Sonoula *via* Ghogha, with Shahkund, Belhar Amarpur, Banka and Katoria in the South have been tar macadamised. If bridges and culverts are made over some of the streams which lie in their way, through communication will be established with the Police Stations of South Bhagalpur.

In North Bhagalpur, some notable progress has been made in road improvement, for example roads connecting Bihpur with Alam Nagar, Madhipura, Saharsa, Supaul and Birpur in Saharsa districts have been constructed in recent years. Some of these roads are made of gravel, while the rest have been tar macadamised. In spite of this spectacular achievement, vast areas both in North and South Bhagalpur are as yet not connected with good roads. Some of these areas are quite inaccessible during the rainy season. For the development of this area, it is essential that katcha roads be made pucca. Very slight improvement has been effected in road development in the urban areas where traffic has tremendously increased in recent years. Some of the State roads have been widened but the municipal roads are more or less in the same condition. In North Bhagalpur and Saharsa districts, the road construction programme was hampered by the non-availability of materials. With the construction of the Ganga bridge at Mokamah, building materials will be transported quickly which will fulfil Government's road-construction programme. During the plan period, development of transport and communication was not given the importance which it deserved. Rs. 21.66 crores provided for development of State Highways and district roads was quite meagre in view of the development which is to be effected. So far as this district is concerned, construction of bridges at Ghogha,

Third Draft Five-Year Plan for Bihar, pp. 21

Trimohan and Koa on the Bhagalpur-Colgong road will provide direct communication with Sahebganj in Santhal Parganas.

During the period under review there has been great increase in the number of motor vehicles and trucks plying in this district. Bus services have been introduced between almost all the important area which has fed the railways and brought prosperity to the people. Trucks have helped the movement of foodgrains and other materials which the railways could not cope with. So far it is a good tendency but the number of buses and trucks are quite inadequate to cope with the increased trade. Withdrawal of private buses as a result of the programme of road nationalisation in this district since 1956 has not improved the situation. Though there has been greater regularity in service and more amenities, number of buses plying on the roads are quite inadequate. According to the quarterly journal of Statistics published by Government of Bihar 819 miles of roads covered by 28 routes were brought under the Rajya Transport Corporation till 1956 with an average of 62 vehicles on roads. It may be mentioned here that some of the routes had vehicles for passengers run in private sector. State Transport service has spread at the cost of trade in the private sector. Since then a few more routes have been taken over, for example Banka, Dumka, Deoghar and Godda have been covered by the Corporation buses, though a few buses under private ownership are still continuing. It is highly essential that the number of buses be increased in the near future. Heavy diesel propelled trucks have been plying between Calcutta, Delhi, Patna, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Jharia and other towns of Bihar and West Bengal which has enabled the handling of a substantial portion of the inland trade of the district. These companies have their offices at each of the towns and they carry on the business of loading and unloading quite satisfactorily. In some cases, they are in a position to render service at a cheaper rate than the Railways. Their only difficulty is the problem of transhipment over the Ganga at Barari Ghat. The construction of the Farraka Barrage in West Bengal may enable direct movements of goods from eastern parts of Bihar to North Bengal easier.

In conclusion it may be stated that as a result of the two plans, there has been some improvement in the economic condition of the people, though it is not equally shared by all sections. Moreover, it has to be added that the benefits could have been derived at a cheaper cost and more expeditiously had peoples' co-operation been more forthcoming.

CHAPTER IX

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

For purposes of General Administration the district is divided into two subdivisions, viz., Bhagalpur Sadar and Banka subdivision. J. Byrne in 1911, in his Bhagalpur Gazetteer had mentioned that the district of Bhagalpur comprised of four subdivisions, namely, Bhagalpur and Banka, south of the Ganga; and Madhipura and Supaul, north of the Ganga. After the creation of the Saharsa district in 1954, Madhipura and Supaul subdivisions went to Saharsa district.

The General Administration of the district is headed by the District Magistrate and Collector who has his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The District Magistrate receives orders both direct from the State Government at Patna and the Divisional Commissioner at Bhagalpur. Bhagalpur is also the Divisional headquarters of Bhagalpur Division. From old records, it appears that Bhagalpur Division was created in 1829 and is one of the oldest Divisions of the then Lower Provinces of Bengal. This Division then not only comprised of the areas which are now in this Division but also of Darjeeling and Maldah Districts of West Bengal.

The Commissioner of Bhagalpur who has his headquarters at Bhagalpur is the administrative head of Bhagalpur Division. The Commissionary office of Bhagalpur is said to be the oldest building in the town and was probably built by the Dutch traders who had flourishing trade in the past in this district.

The District Magistrate is at the apex of the administrative structure, the base of which is being more and more broadened by the development of the country-side and the posting of Block Development Officers. He has been given a large number of officers to help him in the administration of the district. For revenue purposes, he has an Additional Collector and for development work a District Development Officer who remains posted at the headquarters of Bhagalpur, and there are two Land Reforms Deputy Collectors posted at each of the subdivisions. At the subdivisional headquarters of each of the two subdivisions, there is a subdivisional Magistrate, incharge of Law and Order as well as revenue matters. The subdivisional administration is headed by the Subdivisional Officer who has several Officers under him. The Subdivisional Officers are under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate occasionally inspects the working of the Subdivisional Magistrates of Banka and Sadar subdivisions.

There is a Superintendent of Police with headquarters at Bhagalpur to maintain law and order. The Superintendent of Police is assisted by three Deputy Superintendents of Police. The Police structure of the administration has been described in chapter 'Law, Order and Justice'.

The District Magistrate is also responsible for the execution of all planning schemes in the district and as the head of the District Planning Committee it is his duty to co-ordinate the function of all the nation building departments of the district. He is responsible for maintaining law and order and the smooth running of administration at the district level.

The separation of judiciary from executive has been introduced in the District of Bhagalpur since 1st July 1957. The judicial powers of the district are now vested in the District and Sessions Judge. A detailed account of the District Magistrate and his office has been given elsewhere.

The District Magistrate of Bhagalpur had the following Gazetted Officers under him on the 1st April 1961 :—

Officer	Number
(1) Additional Collector	1
(2) District Development Officer	1
(3) Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector ..	4
(4) Senior Deputy Collector	1
(5) Sub-Deputy Collector	1
(6) District Welfare Officer	1
(7) District Panchayat Officer	1
(8) District Public Relations Officer	1
(9) Land Acquisition Officer	1
(10) District Statistical Officer	1
(11) District Industries Officer	1
(12) District Accounts Officer	1
(13) District Agricultural Officer	1
(14) Treasury Officer	1
(15) Special Rehabilitation Officer	1
(16) Personal Assistant to Collector	1
(17) District Education Officer	1
(18) Block Development Officer-cum-Anchal Adhikari*	21

The Sadar Subdivision has the following Officers :—

Officer	Number
(1) Subdivisional Officer	1
(2) Deputy Collector incharge Land Reforms and Development.	1
(3) Deputy Magistrate of Planning	1

*The Block Development Officers, however, do not form a part of the district establishment.

(4) Sub-Deputy Magistrate	.. .. ..	1
(5) Assistant Settlement Officer	.. ..	1
(6) Assistant Engineer, N.E.S.	.. .. ..	1
(7) Anchal Adhikari and Block Development Officer	..	10

Banka Subdivision has the following Officers—

(1) Subdivisional Officer	.. .. ..	1
(2) Deputy Collector incharge Land Reforms and Development.		1
(3) Sub-Deputy Magistrate	.. .. ..	1
(4) Anchal dhikari and Block Development Officer	..	11

THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE AND HIS OFFICE

The District Magistrate from the very beginning of the present set-up of the administration in the district and from the days of British rule was treated as the very pivot of the set-up. At first a promoted 'writer', later a covenanted hand and then a member of the Indian Civil Service or the Provincial Civil Service, the District Magistrate who was also the Collector was the officer who counted most. In the early years of British rule the District Magistrate controlled indigo plantation as well. For a long time he was the Chairman of the District Board, and looked after the roads, rural sanitation and health, village education and arbori-culture.

With the growing complexity of administration there have been ramifications and special officers for some of the administrative departments. Thus the District Magistrate came to be helped by a gazetted Superintendent of Excise for the adminstiration of excise affairs, a Superintendent of Police for running the police administration, a District Sub-Registrar for the registration of documents, a Superintendent of Jail for running the day-to-day jail administration, a Civil Surgeon to run the medical department, etc. He was given a number of gazetted officers who were Magistrates of various ranks for running the core of the administration. They were also Revenue Officers and as such designated as Deputy Collectors. These officers used to be vested with magisterial and revenue powers by publication of notification in the Official Gazette.

Even with the creation of posts for high powered officers like the Superintendent of Police or the Subdivisional Officers incharge of subdivisions, to whom considerable devolution of powers were made, he had the overall administrative supervision and responsibility and was the invariable link with the State. He was to implement the State policy in every branch of the district. He was accountable to the Government for bad administration. Quelling of communal disturbances combined with distribution of prizes in schools at a remote corner of his district occupied the District Magistrate's

programme. The multifarious work of the District Magistrate went on multiplying but the District Magistrate's office known as the Collectorate retained almost the same pattern as had been evolved when the work was much less and there was more of executive work for the District Magistrate and Collector and his staff.

Another duty of the District Magistrate was to hear criminal cases and to decide them. Usually the District Magistrate at one time heard the appeals from the 2nd and 3rd class Magistrates and the revenue appeals. He could also try some important original cases both criminal and revenue. In another chapter details have been given as to how justice is administered now.

With the development of public opinion the District Boards were made independent bodies but the District Magistrates had still certain responsibilities to see that the Board was functioning properly. Many of the District Officer's departments like Excise, Co-operative, Jails, etc., were made into separate departments at Secretariat level and the local officer at district level for that department was put under his departmental boss as well. Thus an Excise Superintendent had to work under the District Magistrate directly but he was also put under the Deputy Commissioner of Excise at the Division and the Commissioner of Excise at Government headquarters. But that does not absolve District Magistrate from his overall control of these departments.

After Independence was achieved in 1947, the character of the administration has been undergoing a great change. Briefly, the State has assumed the role of a Welfare State. More and more development work and projects were introduced. More agrarian reforms came in adding to the work of the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate's functions as the Collector went on rapidly multiplying. A large number of District Councils for Education, Sanitation, Small Savings Drive, Irrigation, etc., came to be formed. The District Magistrate was invariably the head of the all these District Councils.

As is well known every district is divided into several units as the Subdivision. The Subdivisional Officer was the executive head of the subdivision and held in him the same type of functions and responsibilities as a District Magistrate but under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. The Subdivisional Magistrate was also a Deputy to the Collector in revenue matters. Thus the District Magistrate and Collector was at the administrative head of the district with his Deputies, firstly a number of Joint Magistrates, Assistant Magistrates, Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors at the district headquarters and secondly the Subdivisional Officers and a number of officers at the subdivisions combining the magisterial and revenue work and he had the further assistance of officers

in charge of specialised departments like Excise, Registration, Medical and Public Health, etc., at headquarters with their subordinates at the lower level. With the dwindling of the European members of the Indian Civil Service in 1947 by their wholesale retirement by the Government, there was a vacuum in the rank of the top and experienced officers. The vacuum was sought to be filled up by the creation of a service known as the Indian Administrative Service. This service was filled up by promotion from the Provincial Civil Service, and recruitment from the market by selection and open competitive examinations. There are also emergency recruitments by interview only.

As mentioned before the office of the District Magistrate known as the Collectorate had continued the same type of pattern from almost the beginning of the district administration under British rule. A detailed study of the district and subdivisional offices which included the recommendations regarding the standard of staffing and the organisation to be adopted for the Collectorate and Subdivisional offices was done in 1905 by a committee known as the Slacke Committee. This committee was set up to draw a comprehensive scheme for improving the position of the ministerial officers. The pattern that was set up followed the needs at that time. The English Office in the Collectorate was the clearing house of the District Magistrate's administration and every letter went to the English Office and had to be treated in the various departments concerned but under the control of the English Office. Apart from the confidential section there were separate criminal and revenue departments and the Office Superintendent was at the head of the ministerial officers. Each of the departments in the Collectorate like English Office, Establishment, Nazarat, Tauji and Cess, Land Registration, Treasury, etc., was put under a Deputy Collector or an Assistant Magistrate or a Joint Magistrate who belonged to the Indian Civil Service. The establishment was technically under a Deputy Collector and under him the head of the ministerial establishment, namely, the Office Superintendent ran this section. The position of the Office Superintendent depended much on his personality and the impression he had created on the District Magistrate. Far too often he acted as the hidden fifth wheel of the coach and the Deputy Magistrate in charge of the establishment left matters to the Office Superintendent for more than one reason and the ministerial officers were absolutely left under the control of the office Superintendent.

With the emergency on the wake of the Second Great War various price control measures had to be enforced. Cloth, kerosene oil, sugar, medicines, consumers' goods, and various other more necessary commodities had to be controlled. The Deputy Magistrates had to take up the role of a trader, a shop-keeper, and a godown

Superintendent. They did not have the training for all this work. Overnight a Sub-Deputy Magistrate with a small pay of Rs. 200 per month found himself changed into a Price Control Officer or a District Supply Officer controlling transactions of lakhs of rupees. The original strength of the ministerial officers could not cope with the great pressure of work and quickly large temporary recruitments had to be made. The temporary recruits knew very well that their establishments might not last for a long time. They had very big temptations before them and it is no wonder that a certain incidence of corruption and demoralisation of the administrative machinery had crept in. This was not peculiar to this district alone but it was all over the State and probably over all the States in India.

Many of the temporary departments that had been created because of circumstances brought in by the Second Great War closed down at the proper time. Some of them like Supply Department had to be continued in some shape or other and has received fillip occasionally. New problems were created with the partition of the country and the creation of Pakistan. A number of Muslims from Bhagalpur district for various reasons had migrated to Pakistan. There was a panic among both the communities for some months following the communal outburst in 1946. This tension received its peak after the partition which encouraged the Muslims to migrate.

As has been mentioned before development work has been given a great emphasis in the present set-up of administration of the Welfare State. The rigours of casteism are sought to be removed both by statute and by propaganda. Laws have been passed removing the disqualification of the Harijans from entering temples. Wide facilities have been given to the backward communities and scheduled castes for education. A large number of welfare schemes have been taken up for the backward communities and scheduled castes and the aboriginals. National Extension Service Blocks and Community Projects have been started in various corners of the district. The idea is to upgrade a chain of villages under a particular project or a block so that by process of osmosis the other areas will also upgrade themselves. The abolition of zamindari had thrown the society into a whirlpool which has not yet subsided. The administrative set-up has had to change very considerably because of the abolition of zamindari. There is no intermediary link now between the State and the cultivators. The landless labourers have been thought of in the present overall schemes for the improvement of the country. All these changes at the district level were to be controlled from the Collectorate and had taxed to the utmost the set-up of the Collectorate, the office of the District Officer with its own old pattern. It was felt that this pattern must go. For this reason the State Government had

deputed a senior I.C.S. Officer Shri B. D. Pande, who studied the problems of the reorganisation of districts and subdivisional offices and gave his scheme. This scheme was implemented by the Government in July, 1958. By this order the set-up of the district offices has been completely changed to suit the new conditions.

Shri B. D. Pande, I.C.S., took into account the existing circumstances which covered the separation of the judiciary and the executive, the development programmes and the consequent changes towards a welfare administration and the staff that had been recruited on *ad hoc* basis, the lack of method of working, supervision or inspection. It was felt that the Collectorate was not organised into properly defined unit with a proper structure which was essential for efficient office organisation. Ill-assorted arrangement at the top was bound to affect the ramifications and the actual working of the schemes.

The number of clerical staff had gone up more than four times as compared with the number of clerical staff in 1904. In some districts the number of ministerial staff had gone to near about 600 persons. If to this were added the number of field staff that were working under the Collectorate, namely, *Karamcharis*, Village Level Workers, *Gram Sewaks*, Inspectorates, etc., it was found that the non-gazetted establishment under some of the Collectorates would amount to as large as 2,000. This huge array of assistance itself called for administrative and organisational problem of its own.

Shri Pande found that most of the correspondence was carried out in the main office of the Collectorate known as English Office which was itself a misnomer. The English Office formerly had two main divisions, Judicial and Revenue while a number of revenue subjects were still dealt with in the English Office. There was a fairly big separate revenue establishment, consequent on the abolition of zamindari. Correspondence was also carried on in a large number of smaller offices. This led to duplication of files and papers, loss of papers, lack of supervision, etc. He felt that the best arrangement for the organisation of the main Collectorate Office was to divide the Collectorate into seven principal sections as follows :—

(1) Confidential—This was to be directly under the Collectorate.

(2) General Office—This was to replace the English Office.

(3) Revenue Office—This was to correspond to the present Revenue Office set-up on the abolition of zamindaris.

(4) Development Office.

(5) Establishment Office.

(6) Legal Section.

(7) Treasury and Accounts.

The proposed distribution of subjects was as follows :—
Section I—Confidential.

Section II—General—(1) Law and Order; (2) Agrarian disputes; (3) Maintenance of Public Order Act; (4) Collective Fines; (5) Police and Homeguards; (6) Requisitioning and derequisitioning of property; (7) Allotment of houses; (8) Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Board; (9) Elections; (10) Census; (11) Cinemas and dramatic performances; (12) Licenses (Arms Explosives, etc.); (13) Press, including examination of newspaper cuttings; (14) Public Relations; (15) Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons from Pakistan; (16) Evacuee Property Act; (17) Passports and Visas; (18) Domicile Certificate; (19) Political Sufferers; (20) Jails; (21) Supply and Price Control; (22) Anti-Corruption; (23) Assembly, Council and Parliament questions; (24) Local Bodies, that is, Municipalities, District Boards, Notified Area Committees and other Union Committees; (25) Library; (26) Forms and Stationery; (27) Labour, including Minimum Wages Act, Workmen's Compensation, etc.

Section III—Revenue—(1) Land Reforms; (2) Tenancy Act; (3) Rent and Cess; (4) Khas Mahal; (5) Rent Commutation; (6) Chaukidari; (7) Settlement; (8) Balabandi; (9) Malkhana; (10) Registration; (11) Chakrana; (12) Embankment; (13) Excise and Opium; (14) Kanungo Establishment; (15) Taxation Measures; (16) Record Room; (17) Copying Department; (18) Certificate; (19) Nazarat; (20) Circuit House; (21) Land Acquisition; (22) Ferries; (23) Mining; (24) Treasure Trove; (25) Stamps; (26) Crop and Weather Reports;)27) Flood and Scarcity.

Section IV—Development—(1) Five-Year Plan and Co-ordination; (2) District Development Committee; (3) District Planning Committee; (4) District Education Committee; (5) Community Project and National Extension Service; (6) Local Development Works Programme; (7) Irrigation (major, medium and minor); (8) Reclamation of Wasteland; (9) Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes; (10) Gram Panchayats; (11) Vested zamindari improvement works; (12) Welfare activities of other departments including Grow More Food; (13) Statistics; (14) Forests; (15) Loans, including Agriculturists' Loans,

Land Improvement Loans, Loans under the State Aid to Industries Act, etc.; (16) National Savings Scheme; and (17) Works Staff in the District.

Section V—Establishment—(1) Personal cases—maintenance of service books, character rolls, leave accounts, etc., of personnel employed under the Collector; (2) Appointments, postings and transfers; (3) Leave; (4) Departmental Proceedings; (5) Provident Fund, Gratuity; (6) Pensions; (7) Security; (8) Bill and Budget Works of the Collectorate.

Section VI—Legal Section—(1) Revenue and Judicial Munshikhana; (2) Civil Suits; (3) Pauper Suits; (4) Criminal Motions; (5) Inspection of Trial Registers; (6) Appeals; (7) Correspondence with the Legal Remembrancer; (8) High Court; (9) Release of Prisoners; (10) Pleaders, Mukhtars and Revenue Agents; (11) Probate; (12) Wakf Estates—Religious Endowments; (13) Payment of Pleader's bills; (14) Judicial Accounts; (15) Criminal Fines; (16) Law Agents and Law Clerks; (17) Other Criminal, Civil or Revenue Appeals or Motions and matters connected therewith and (18) Court Malkhana.

Section VII—Treasury and Accounts—(1) Treasury and Accounts; and (2) Sale of stamps.

Shri Pande made a detailed recommendation for the offices indicating the scales of pay under the different heads. He had further recommended for the removal of the artificial distinction between Class A and Class B Districts. At the time of the Slacke Committee's Report a distinction was made between the districts mainly on the basis of the number of assistants employed under a Collectorate. Where the number of clerks was below 100 the district was placed in a lower category in respect of the pay of the supervisory staff. The number of clerks in every district was well above 100 when Shri Pande made his enquiry and he felt that the ministerial officers employed in the different districts should have equal opportunity of promotion to a higher post. Therefore, he recommended that the distinction between the different districts in matter of salaries to be drawn by persons doing the same kind of jobs should be abolished.

There was a certain amount of invidious distinction between a Sadar subdivision and a mofussil subdivision. The recommendation was that the Sadar subdivision should be organised more or less on the lines of mofussil subdivisions. The Sadar Subdivisional Officer was to have the following departments :—

General Office; Elections; Developments; Confidential; Loans and Relief; N.E.S. and Gram Panchayats; Supply and

Price Control; Minor Irrigation; Public Relations; Welfare; Chaukidari; Nazarat; Certificates; B. T. Act cases; Library; Land Reforms—L.I. Fee—Revenue Munshikhana; Arms and Cinemas and other licenses.

According to Shri Pande the Collectorate should also retain Probate, Civil Suits, Malkhana, Mines, Revenue Appeals, Settlement, Embankment, Balabandi and Land Acquisition Sections. Another important change that had to be taken cognizance of was that with the abolition of zamindari and the vesting of the zamindari into the State, the Khasmahal Department of a district had lost its separate entity. The Khasmahal was, therefore, to be completely merged with the Land Reforms Department. The Landlord Fee Department of the Collectorate had to be abolished as with the abolition of the zamindari, no money-orders had to be sent or acknowledged. It was recommended that arrangements should be made with the District Registration Office or the Sub-Registrar to deposit the Landlord Fee direct into the Treasury and send notices to the Circle Officers or the *Anchal Adhikaris* concerned.

Shri Pande went into some detail as to the necessary augmentation of certain departments like Nazarat, Certificate, Record Rooms, etc. He considered that since the *Anchal Adhikari* was also the Block Development Officer, the certificate powers should not be vested in him and the procedure of getting certificates executed through the Subdivisional Officer should continue. It may be noted here that the work in connection with certificates has been transferred to the Anchal Officers in the other Raiyatwari States of Bombay, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, etc.

Shri Pande had also given elaborate suggestions for the working of the Development Office, Welfare Departments, Gram Panchayats, Loans Department, Establishment Office, Legal Office, Inspections, etc. He had recommended that questionnaires to assist in the inspection as in the case of some of the older manuals should be prescribed for the new branches also like those of development, revenue, etc. They will be of valuable guidance to junior officers.

He also felt that there should be adequate delegations of powers to officers at all levels, namely, *Anchal Adhikaris*, Subdivisional Officers, Collectors etc. He had also indicated the necessity of a regular training of the newly recruited assistants and that the training should be closely integrated with practical training in the office itself.

The Chief Secretary in his no. OM/R-302/56—10443, dated the 20th December 1957 had approved of the suggestions and informed the District Officers by name that the arrangements should be made forthwith to introduce the Reorganisation Scheme in the districts and subdivisions from the 2nd January 1958. He reiterated that the Collectorate should be divided into seven principal sections as recommended by Shri B.D. Pande. He further

expected that the Sadar Subdivisional Officers should function separately from the Collectorate like Mofussil Subdivisional Officer with the departments as recommended by Shri Pande and the Collectorate should, however, retain the nine subjects mentioned before as per Shri Pande's recommendations. There was a further reiteration of Shri Pande's scheme in the letter of Shri M.S. Rao, I.C.S., Chief Secretary bearing no. R2-302/56-CSR.—365, dated the 9th July 1958. In this letter the existing distinction between A and B Class districts in respect of pay scale for various categories of the posts was abolished. Orders were passed for the merging of the Khasmahal Office in the General Land Reforms Office, the abolition of L.I. Fee Department and other recommendations regarding Nazarat, Certificate, Establishment, Legal Section, etc.

Registration Office

The District Sub-Registrar is the administrative head of the Registration Department under the immediate control of the District Registrar. The Inspector-General of Registration, Patna, is the head of the department. There are four Sub-Registry offices in the District at Bhagalpur Sadar, Banka, Colgong and Bihpur Each Sub-Registry office is under the charge of a Sub-Registrar.

The District Sub-Registrar assists the District Magistrate in supervising the work of the Sub-registry offices in the district. The District Sub-Registrar's office at the headquarters of the district has got a big record room where there are many registers and indices of all Sub-Registry offices situated in the district. Registers and books contain copies of documents registered since 1796 A.D. Strict secrecy with regard to the contents of documents copied in the register books is maintained as in doing so it yields good income to the Government in the shape of searching and copying fees.

The Statistics below would show the number of documents registered, receipts and expenditure of the District from 1950 to 1960.

Year.	Documents registered.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.
1950	51,315	4,02,450	94,716
1951	63,266	4,50,674	1,12,322
1952	46,562	3,69,365	92,532
1953	44,867	3,34,939	96,781
1954	22.070	2,05,328	58,962
1955	21,294	1,94,378	52,293
1956	23,676	2,21,086	55,498
1957	26,775	2,31,655	56,942
1958	31,087	2,75,289	62,088
1959	31,119	2,59.216	67,695
1960	35,079	3,33,647	68,679

In the year 1950, there was an increase of 9,840 documents and receipts of Rs. 59,151 as compared with the figures of the previous year. The reason for increase may be assigned to high prices of foodgrains and other commodities of life.

In the year 1951, there was an increase of 11,951 documents and receipts of Rs. 48,224 as compared with the figures of the year 1950. The reason for increase may be assigned to a huge number of documents executed by cultivators to whom the loans were given by the Government, and number of bonds executed by the refugees.

The Registration Offices in the district including Sadar have registered 46,562 documents, during the year 1952 against 63,266 documents during the year 1951 and total receipt of Rs. 3,69,365 as against Rs. 4,50,674 of preceding year.

In 1958 there was increase both in the total number of registration and the receipt is due to the failure of crops last year for want of timely rain which necessitated the people to take loans by mortgaging their lands to meet the necessary expenses of their daily life and crops.

In 1960, there is an increase in the total number of registration which is mainly due to registration of large number of documents of the refugees from East Pakistan. There is increase of Rs. 1,044 in the total expenditure as compared with the figures of the year 1959. The increase is due to an increase in the total number of registration.

STAMPS

There is one Treasury Officer of Finance Service at the District Treasury Office. Besides there is one Sub-Treasury Officer at Banka. These Officers are under the direct control of the Collector.

The revenue from the sale of stamps is an important source of income to the State Government.

The statistics of receipts from sale of stamps from 1953 to 1961 are given below:—

	Receipts. Rs.
1952-53	13,65,235
1953-54	13,61,622
1954-55	9,39,691
1955-56	7,95,681
1956-57	10,16,117
1957-58	10,43,935
1958-59	10,52,993
1959-60	11,40,109
1960-61	12,74,362

There was decrease of Rs. 3,616 in 1953-54 against the year 1952-53 due to decrease in number of general cases and sale of lands, etc.

There was decrease of Rs. 5,21,931 in 1954-55 against the year 1953-54 due to separation of Saharsa district with effect from the beginning of the year.

There was decrease of Rs. 44,010 in 1955-56 against the year 1954-55 due to decrease in number of general cases and of lands, etc.

There was increase of Rs. 2,20,436 in 1956-57 against the year 1955-56 due to increase in the sale of special adhesive stamps due to Rajya Transport.

The great receipts under stamps and Court Fee Act for the year 1057-58 was Rs. 10,43,935 against Rs. 10,16,117 of the preceding year. There was increase of Rs. 27,818 due to increase in number of general cases and of lands etc.

Public Relations Department

Prior to 1952 the Public Relations Department was known as Publicity Department. There is a District Public Relations Officer with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. He is assisted by an Assistant Public Relations Officer. The jurisdiction of Public Relations Officer is now confined to South Bhagalpur. For the North Bhagalpur area there is a separate unit under the charge of an Additional Public Relations Officer with his headquarters at Naugachhia. This unit was created in 1959 under the Second Five-Year Plan.

The District Public Relations Officer and Additional Public Relations Officer are under the immediate control of the District Magistrate. These officers have to make the people aware of the development works that have been or are being carried out in the district and to induce them to co-operate with Government and the department concerned to make the development schemes successful.

Besides this main function of the Public Relations Department, it also helps in the cultural uplift of the people by music and drama, exhibitions, etc.

Under the Community Listening Scheme. Radio sets are distributed by this Department to villages having population of 1,000 and above. Up till now 198 sets have been distributed in the district by both units.

The office of the Deputy Director of Public Relations Department was created under the Second Five-Year Plan at Bhagalpur with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. He is under the immediate control of the Commissioner, Bhagalpur. He is the Technical Controller of District Public Relations Offices. There is also a Divisional Information Centre under his charge.

District Welfare Office

The District Welfare Officer with his headquarters at Bhagalpur is the administrative head of this office. The District Magistrate has direct control over that office. There is an Assistant Welfare Officer to assist the District Welfare Officer with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. Besides, Welfare Inspector has been posted in each Block for the welfare work in his jurisdiction.

The Welfare Department is gaining importance now-a-days due to various welfare programmes covered in the First and Second Five Year Plans. The Secretary of the Welfare Department is the administrative head of the Welfare Department. A number of wells have been constructed and all wells repaired in the Harijan and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe's colonies.

The Department aims to launch various economic plans for the upliftment of the downtrodden people.

Commercial Taxes Department

The Bhagalpur Circle of the Commercial Taxes Department was created in 1944 and the area of the Circle coincides with the area of the revenue district of Bhagalpur comprising in Sadar and Banka subdivisions. There is a Commissioner of Commercial Taxes with his headquarters at Patna. The Superintendent of Commercial Taxes is the administrative head of the Circle. There are three Assistant Superintendents of Commercial Taxes to assist the Superintendent of Commercial Taxes in the matter of assessment of tax on dealers and assessees of the Circle. Besides, there are three Inspectors in the district.

The Department is concerned with the assessment and realisation of the following taxes:—

(1) *Agricultural Income-tax*.—It was levied in 1938 under the Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1938, but its administration was first taken over by the Commercial Taxes Department in 1944-45. The collection from the tax reached its peak in 1951-52 when it rose to Rs. 3,76,093 which was mainly due to enhancement in the rate of tax. In 1956-57 it recorded a big fall to Rs. 43,470 only. The reason for it was mainly due to taking over the big zamindaries by the State Government and the bad economic condition of the agriculturist in general. Secondly, many of the zamindars of the district filed petition to Government that the unpaid dues of agricultural Income-tax may be realised from the *ad interim* compensation money to be payable to them by the Government. It had, however, shown an upward tendency later.

(2) *Bihar Sales Tax.*—It was introduced in the State from 1944-45. In 1960-61 the collection from this tax amounted to Rs. 19,05,641. The collection in 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 in this Circle amounted to Rs. 14,18,072, Rs. 14,92,631, Rs. 14,50,749 and Rs. 14,71,270 respectively. The reason for downward and upward trend during the aforesaid years was mainly owing to the deregistration of a large number of dealers consequent upon the raising of the registrable limit from over Rs. 10,000 to over Rs. 15,000 from 1954.

(3) *Central Sales Tax.*—Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 was introduced in Bihar from the 1st July 1956 and collection from this tax during the year 1957-58 was Rs. 22,348. Since then there had been constant rise in collection which rose to Rs. 93,952 in 1959-60. This was partly due to increase in the rate of tax.

(4) *Entertainment Tax.*—The administration of this tax was taken over by the Commercial Taxes Department in 1948-49. Its collection had shown steep rise in 1958-59 and 1960-61 when there had been collection of Rs. 2,28,839 and Rs. 2,49,784 respectively during these two years. In years 1954-55 to 1957-58 the collection under this Act had shown a fall which is mainly due to arrear in collection.

(5) *Electricity Duty.*—It was first levied in the district in 1948-49. The collection from this tax reached its peak in 1959-60, rose to Rs. 1,39,739 and in 1960-61 the collection was Rs. 1,17,939. The slight fall in collection during the year 1960-61 in comparison with the collection in 1959-60, was mainly due to the fact that some Electricity generating concerns had been deregistered on account of stoppage of Electricity generation by them.

(6) *Motor Spirit (Sales) Tax.*—Before 1949 this tax was realised by the Excise Department. In 1956-57 total receipt from this tax amounted to Rs. 1,53,796. Since then there has been constant rise in collection which rose to Rs. 2,10,781 in 1959-60. This was partly due to rise in duty and the gradual improvement in the condition of the roads of the district.

(7) *Passengers and goods Transport Tax.*—It was levied for the first time in 1950. During the year the total yield from the tax was Rs. 38,727. It has shown upward tendency since then and in 1959-60 and 1960-61 the total receipt from this tax rose to Rs. 2,70,235 and Rs. 2,10,610 respectively. The increase was mainly due to realisation of outstanding arrear dues.

The statistics of Commercial Taxes Department under receipt and expenditure are given below:—

RECEIPT.

Year.	Agril. Income-tax.	Bihar Sales Tax.	Central Sales Tax.	Entertainment Tax.	Electricity Duty.	Motor spirit.	Passengers and Goods Transport Tax.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1950-51	3,66,657	16,14,838	..	2,18,810	37,594	95,825	38,727
1951-52	3,76,093	15,72,710	..	2,61,276	42,054	1,53,583	59,180
1952-53	2,89,674	15,14,844	..	2,43,402	45,248	1,22,446	76,057
1953-54	3,16,138	14,89,072	.	2,33,259	68,873	1,38,093	59,819
1954-55	1,43,132	14,92,631	..	1,67,121	74,408	1,31,374	35,970
1955-56	84,200	14,50,749	..	1,59,495	77,958	1,46,195	58,133
1956-57	43,470	14,71,270	..	1,82,277	86,619	1,53,796	1,30,983
1957-58	91,165	16,89,037	22,348	1,75,268	93,952	1,65,785	81,557
1958-59	1,28,500	17,29,101	54,350	2,28,839	90,837	1,85,525	1,01,690
1959-60	1,39,895	15,83,758	93,952	1,08,259	1,39,739	2,10,781	2,70,235
1960-61	3,03,432	19,05,641	67,922	2,49,784	1,17,930	1,85,424	2,10,610

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Pay of Officers.	Pay of Establishment.	Travelling allowance.	Cost of living allowance.	Contingencies.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. As. p.	Rs. As. p.	Rs. As. p.	Rs. As. p.	Rs. As. p.
1954-55	6,483 0 0	22,624 5 0	6,836 6 0	11,679 12 0	3,419 6 0
1955-56	5,406 13 0	22,438 9 0	6,866 4 0	11,541 14 0	2,891 15 0
1956-57	8,944 3 0	23,095 5 0	6,326 7 0	12,677 6 0	5,601 10 0
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1957-58	10,901.36	23,145.57	3,999.66	13,418.57	5,137.09
1958-59	13,419.47	22,804.80	5,198.78	14,990.14	3,058.81
1959-60	13,322.90	25,855.86	6,300.17	15,846.53	4,800.90
1960-61	13,628.26	26,868.86	4,832.46	19,979.94	7,079.46

Commercial Taxes Department is one of the most important revenue-yielding Departments of the State Government. So far as income of the State Government is concerned it has replaced income-tax which is now the Central subject.

INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT

Administration of Income-tax is a Central subject and is administered by the Central Government. The jurisdiction of the Income-tax Officer, Bhagalpur, extends over the whole of Bhagalpur district. There are two Income-tax Officers posted at Bhagalpur. One is known as Income-tax Officer, Ward 'A' and the other is known as Income-tax Officer, Ward 'B',

The Controlling Officer of the Income-tax Officers at Bhagalpur is the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax, Northern Range with his headquarters at Patna. He is under the Commissioner of Income-tax with his headquarters at Patna whose jurisdiction extends over the whole of Bihar and Orissa.

The Income-tax Officer issues notices every year at the beginning of the financial year to all assessees to file return of income of the previous year and frame assessments in due course. The rate of tax, however, is determined by the Annual Finance Act passed by the Central Legislature.

The important trade and industry in the circle are Silk Industry in Bhagalpur city and at Nathnagar, a suburb of Bhagalpur. Trade in grains and oil-seeds at Naugachia, Colgong and Sultanganj is done on a large scale. Another industry worth mentioning is *Khandsari* Sugar Industry in Banka subdivision of Bhagalpur district.

For Estate Duty cases including the Income-tax, the Assistant Controller of Estate Duty-*cum*-Income-tax with his headquarters at Patna is the authority. He is under the administrative control of the Deputy Controller of Estate Duty, Calcutta Range with his headquarters at Patna.

With regard to appeals all the cases from the Income-tax Officers of Bhagalpur lie with his Appellate Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax with his headquarters at Bhagalpur.

The figures of assessment and collection of Income-tax along with the number of assessees are given below for four years:—

Year.	No. of assessees.	Net demand.	Net collection.
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.
1957-58	1,164	7,54,000	4,76,000
1958-59	1,249	4,59,000	2,51,000
1959-60	1,223	5,50,000	2,87,000
1960-61	1,268	5,42,000	2,19,000

In four years, i.e., 1957 to 1960 net demand decreased about 28% and net collection decreased about 54%.

Excise Department

There is a Superintendent of Excise for this district at the head of the administration at the district level. He is under the immediate control of the Collector, Bhagalpur. The Superintendent of Excise is also under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Northern Range with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur.

There is also a separate temporary Superintendent of Excise posted for Ganja cultivation between 1st of November to 30th April every year for the supervision of staff and cultivation of Ganja. There is a permanent quarter for him near Jichho. The staff are posted from all districts of the State for the supervision of Ganja cultivation. He has got his separate establishment. He is also under the immediate control of Collector of Bhagalpur and under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Northern Range with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur.

The district is divided into two ranges each under the charge of one Inspector with headquarters at Bhagalpur and Banka.

These two ranges have further been subdivided into five circles, each under the charge of one Sub-Inspector at Bhagalpur (Sadar), Colgong, Bihpur, Banka and Katoria. The headquarters of Katoria Sub-Inspector is also at Banka.

There are three Warehouses at Bhagalpur, Banka and Bihpur, each under the charge of one Sub-Inspector with headquarters at Bhagalpur, Banka and Bihpur.

There is one district Ganja and Bhang *gola* under the combined charge of the Sub-Inspector who is incharge of Warehouse at Bhagalpur.

There is one provincial Ganja *gola* in this district under the combined charge of Range Inspector, Sadar.

There are three special centres at present at Bhagalpur, Sultanganj and Bihpur under the charge of one Sub-Inspector each.

There is one Instructor at the Constables' Training School at Nathnagar. He is under the control of the Principal, C.T.S., Nathnagar. He has to instruct the Excise Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Excise peons deputed for training at the C.T.S., Nathnagar.

Ganja has been successfully cultivated in this district for the last 27 years. The cultivation is confined to several plots of land that lie between Bhagalpur and Sabour, the soil of which is very

suitable for the purpose. About 70 to 80 acres of land is annually put under cultivation and Ganja produced in these fields is sufficient to meet the demand of the State. The average yield of Ganja is 8 maunds an acre.

Bhang plants grow in the rural areas of this district. The leaves are used as the basis of intoxication. The revenue from Bhang is derived from license fees and duty. The communication of Bhang from the license shop is nominal. The consumption of foreign liquor is confined only to the richer class of the people and does not hamper the sale of country spirit.

The greater portion of the Excise revenue is derived from the taxes levied on country spirit, ganja, toddy and miscellaneous including denatured spirit.

THE STATISTICS OF REVENUE DERIVED FROM DIFFERENT KINDS OF EXCISABLE COMMODITIES FROM 1950-51 TO 1960-61.

Year.	Spirit.	Ganja.	Bhang.	Opium.	Foreign Liquor.	Tari.	Cocain.	Denatured spirit including Mrit Sanjivan Sudha.	Druggist permit poppy head.	Pachwai.	Miscellaneous.	Total revenue.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1950-51 ..	8,74,252	1,80,159	6,021	67,297	3,992	2,97,120	4	63,810	69	20	51,367	15,53,111
1951-52 ..	8,80,566	2,03,072	6,243	32,529	11,361	2,98,261	5	54,206	68	18	53,701	15,40.030
1952-53 ..	7,04,691	1,27,098	5,101	34,203	16,759	2,85,997	16	67,016	169	4	30,175	12,71,229
1953-54 ..	6,54,355	1,15,498	4,763	36,390	14,420	2,95,807	4	58,292	142	2	50,674	12,29,141
1954-55 ..	4,77,584	86,822	4,766	25,494	12,587	2,08,522	5	70,212	97	4	27,700	9,13,793
1955-56 ..	4,05,342	61,693	4,170	23,637	11,544	1,95,373	4	69,956	97	4	44,282	8,70,102
1956-57 .	4,81,789	64,820	3,495	23,949	9,830	16,252	4	75,696	109	..	48,500	8,90,997
1957-58 ..	4,03,986	51,301	2,741	11,877	14,102	1,62,601	5	50,278	553	..	57,241	7,54,685
1958-59 ..	4,13,431	43,649	2,797	6,575	11,091	1,53,325	2	48,372	155	..	47,625	7,26,891
1959-60 ..	5,53,153	49,509	2,638	536	11,951	1,65,323	5	52,209	508	..	77,512	9,13,344
1960-61 ..	5,86,232	47,343	2,664	11	14,201	1,42,845	1	72,483	151	..	54,941	9,20,872

From the appraisal of the above statement, it will appear that revenue derived from Excise was highest in 1950-51. There has been a slight fall in next year and after that revenue has fallen precipitately. The precipitate fall in revenue in 1954-55 appears to be due to creation of Saharsa district. In 1954, except in the two years, i.e., 1959-60 and 1960-61 there had been slight decrease in the receipts of excise.

Bhagalpur is not a prohibited district. Prohibition as a State Policy has not yet been adopted and the only step to bring about prohibition is the increase of Excise duty which raises the price of intoxicants. It is unfortunate that an investigation shows that the incidence of drinking and use of other intoxicants has definitely increased.

Anti-Corruption Department

The Anti-Corruption Department was started in 1956 with an Inspector of Police under the direct administrative control of a Deputy Superintendent of Police who is incharge of the work for Bhagalpur Division. The Inspector has a subordinate staff. The main function of this department is to enquire into charges of corruption among Government officials.

This department is under the administrative control of an officer of the rank of the Superintendent of Police at the Secretariat level. He is also a Deputy Secretary to the Government.

Co-operative Department

A Divisional Auditor, Co-operative Societies in Bhagalpur, took charge of the division as Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies on the 20th December, 1920. The jurisdiction of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhagalpur Division, extends to the whole of Bhagalpur Division. In course of time consequent upon the creation of the offices of the Assistant Registrars, Co-operative Societies, its jurisdiction went on decreasing. With the creation of the office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Banka Circle in the year 1958, the area of operation of Bhagalpur Circle comprises of Bhagalpur Sadar subdivision only. Its divisional head is the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bihar, Patna who is the administrative head of the Co-operative Department.

There are seven Community Development Blocks functioning in this Circle. One Inspector, Co-operative Societies designated as Co-operative Extension Supevisor and one Local Auditor, Co-operative Societies are posted to each of the Blocks, besides the other supervisory staff of the rank of Supervisors Co-operative Societies.

To meet the credit needs of the members of the various types of Co-operative Societies scattered over the whole of the subdivision, there is one Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., functioning. With the introduction of Reorganisation Scheme of Central Co-operative Banks, the Banka Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., has merged with the Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd. which is now functioning as district headquarters Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., under the name of the Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd. The affairs of the Central Co-operative Bank are managed by a General Manager posted by the Co-operative Department and a Board of Directors.

One branch of Land Mortgage Bank to meet the long term credit needs of the members is functioning since August, 1959. Its area of operation extends to whole of Bhagalpur district.

To link credit with marketing, three *Vyapar Mandal Sahyog Samiti*, Ltd., at Naugachhia, Bihpur and Colgong and six large sized Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies at Saidpur, Bihpur, Shahkund, Sonhaula, Pirpainty and Jagdishpur have been registered and functioning. Except Jagdishpur all the large sized Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies and *Vyapar Mandal Sahyog Samities* have been provided with a godown of their own.

The progress achieved by the Co-operative Societies will be apparent from the statistics as on 30th June, 1960 :—

Type of Co-operative Societies.	Total no. as on 30th June, 1960.	No. of Members.	Paid up Share Capital.
1	2	3	4
			Rs.
1. Multipurpose Co-operative Societies ..	211	11,000	1,63,058.00
2. Oilmen's Co-operative Societies ..	34	699	61,210.00
3. Credit Co-operative Societies ..	63	29	..
4. Weavers' Co-operative Societies ..	69	9,288	2,06,200.00
5. Fishermen's Co-operative Societies ..	3	178	1,470.00
6. Milk Union Co-operative Societies ..	6	170	4,660.00
7. Co-operative Stores	14	524	25,440.00
8. Teachers' Co-operative Societies ..	14	978	945.00
9. Hand Pounding Co-operative Societies .	19	423	7,505.00
10. *Gramodyog* Co-operative Societies ..	4	73	1,328.00

Type of Co-operative Societies.	Total no. as on 30th June, 1960.	No. of Members.	Paid up Share Capital.
1	2	3	4
			Rs.
11. *Vikash Mandal* Co-operative Societies	2	56	26,345.00
12. *Grihyudyog* Co-operative Societies ..	1	9	51.00
13. *Targur* Co-operative Societies ..	3	15	312.00
14. *Gur Khandsari* Co-operative Societies ..	5	10	190.00
15. Butter Farming Co-operative Societies ..	1	..	..
16. Joint Farming Co-operative Societies ..	2	44	1,365.00
17. Housing Co-operative Societies ..	1	15	1,000.00
18. *Khadi Rachnatmak* Co-operative Societies	4	72	2,233.00
19. *Harijan* Co-operative Societies ..	3	149	..
20. Dyeing and Painting Co-operative Societies	1	..	..
21. *Biri Mazdoor* Co-operative Societies ..	1	2	10.00
22. Carpenters' Co-operative Societies ..	6	160	2,176.00
23. *Diyasalai* Co-operative Societies ..	1	..	..
24. *Charmakar* Co-operative Societies ..	2	110	3,810.00
25. Vegetable Co-operative Societies ..	1	47	954.00
26. Salary Earners' Co-operative Societies ..	1	364	10,380.00
27. Poultry Co-operative Societies ..	2	44	1,200.00
28. *Kutirshilp* Co-operative Societies ..	1	33	500.00
29. Industrial Co-operative Societies ..	4	..	..
30. *Madhupalak* Co-operative Societies ..	1	..	..
31. *Laghu Udyog* Co-operative Societies ..	1	21	4,100.00
32. *Hath Kargha* Co-operative Societies ..	1	13	130.00
33. Potters' Co-operative Societies ..	15	65	610.00
34. *Vyapar Mandal* Co-operative Societies ..	1	..	..

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING

A Public Health Engineering Division with its headquarters at Bhagalpur was created in 1950. The main object was to afford

proper facilities of drinking water to the people of the Bhagalpur and other towns. Monghyr and Santhal Parganas were also placed under the same division. An Executive Engineer is the head of the Division and is under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer with his headquarters at Patna. The headquarters of the Chief Engineer is at Patna.

This Division comprises two subdivisions in Bhagalpur district, namely, Bhagalpur no. I Subdivision and Bhagalpur no. II Subdivision. Besides there is one Subdivision at Monghyr and another at Deoghar with headquarters at Monghyr and Deoghar.

Since the creation of the Division, the following important schemes have been taken up in Bhagalpur district:—

(1) Bhagalpur no. 1 water supply scheme.
(2) Bhagalpur no. 2 water supply scheme.
(3) Bhagalpur town water supply scheme.

Bhgalpur town water supply scheme amounting to Rs. 13,19,037 had been executed and further supplementary scheme for Bhagalpur town water supply amounting to Rs. 24 lakhs is under execution. New Water Tower of 1 lakh gallon capacity near Training College is completed. The work on filtration plant at Barari and clear water reservoir, etc. is in progress.

About four hundred tube-wells with 1½ inch diameter have been sunk in flood drought affected areas of this district.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

The Employment Exchange Office was started at Bhagalpur in 1948 under the charge of the District Employment Officer. Prior to 1956, the Directorate of Employment Exchange was under the Central Government and there used to be a Regional Director of National Employment at the State Level. But since October, 1956, the Department has come under the State Government and the administrative head is known as the State Director of National Employment service with his headquarters at Patna. Below the Deputy Director is the Regional Employment Officer with his headquarters at Patna. The work of Employment Exchange in the district of Bhagalpur is looked after by the District Employment Officer of gazetted rank. He has one field staff to assist him in the work. The District Employment Officer of Bhagalpur is controlled by the Regional Employment Officer, Patna.

The chief function of the District Employment Officer is to find employment for the unemployed. It is his duty to be in touch with different sources of employment and to make the

Exchange popular with them. The unemployed irrespective of their age, educational qualifications, etc., are expected to register themselves indicating their preference for particular trade. The entries are categorised and whenever there is a demand from any employer the Exchange Officer sends up the names of the possible candidates.

A statement is given below to show the number of applicants registered, placed and number of vacancies notified at the end of each year for two years:—

Year.	No. of Employment Exchange.	No. of registration.	No. of applicants placed.	No. of vacancies notified.
1	2	3	4	5
1959 ..	1	2,132	143	340
1960 ..	1	2,773	76	301

ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

The Electricity Executive Engineer, Electricity Supply Division, Bhagalpur is incharge of the division and is under the control of the Electrical Superintending Engineer, Bhagalpur Circle, with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Chief Engineer, Electricity Department, Bihar, with his headquarters at Patna is the head of the department.

The Executive Engineer, Bhagalpur is assisted by three Assistant Electrical Engineers with their headquarters at Bhagalpur, Sultanganj and Deoghar. They are incharge of the transmission and distribution in their respective jurisdiction. There are three power houses, one at Sahebganj, other at Monghyr and third at Pakur.

The following towns have been electrified:—

Bhagalpur, Banka, Sultanganj and Colgong.

There has not been more expansion of electrification of villages. So far only Akbarpur near Bhagalpur has been electrified.

CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT

Bhagalpur Circle was created in March, 1943 having the jurisdiction over the Bhagalpur Commissionary, namely, Bhagalpur, Santhal Parganas, Monghyr, Saharsa and Purnea. In the year 1945, a separate Purnea Circle comprising only the district of Purnea came into existence and the remaining four districts continued to

be under the charge of Bhagalpur Circle. In the year 1951, on account of range re-scheming, Begusarai Circle was created. The entire Circle at present is divided into eight ranges. Bhagalpur range is under the charge of Deputy Superintendent. Other seven ranges, namely, Colgong, Sahebganj, Pakur, Dumka, Deoghar, Madhipura and Jhajha are under a charge of Inspector.

The Bhagalpur Circle is under the administrative charge of a a Superintendent of Central Excise with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. He is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent. This Circle is under the direct control of an Assistant Collector of Bhagalpur Division. The Assistant Collector is under the control of the Collector of Central Excise with headquarters at Patna.

The main function of the Superintendent is to look after the proper collection of excise duty levied by the Central Government from time to time.

The following table will show the collection of Revenue from Central Excise in Bhagalpur District:—

—	1959-60 Realised	1960-61 Realised
	Rs.	Rs.
Tobacco	30,92,344	41,17,621
Vegetable non-essential oil	2,42,687	3,56,836
Khandsari Sugar	18,159	29,971
Woollen Fabrics	72,964	75,551
Silk	..	17,185
Soap	3,689	1,747

Besides the above commodities three other items have come under excise control this year as per Finance Bill, 1961, *viz.*, patient and proprietary medicine, woollen yarn and china and porcelain-ware. The expected revenue from the above three items is above 1 lakh per year.

The Circle is not important for purposes of growing tobacco because it comprises hills and not fit for tobacco cultivation.

Industry Department

The District Industries Officer, Bhagalpur, with headquarters at Bhagalpur, is under the direct control of the Director of Industries, Bihar, with headquarters at Patna. There is one Subdivisional Inspector of Industries posted at Banka Subdivision. There are seven Industrial Extension Supervisors in the different Community Development Blocks of the district.

The district of Bhagalpur is to some extent industrialised. There is one Engineering School and College in Bhagalpur City. There is also one Model Blacksmithy Centre, one Aluminium Factory at Bounsi, which is about 32 miles south from Bhagalpur. There is one Industrial Women's School located at Bhagalpur City, where girl students are given training in knitting, embroidery and tailoring. There is a Dye House for dyeing yarn at Nathnagar. There are many Tassar Silk Factories by which a huge quantity of Tassar Silk fabrics are exported to America and other countries from Bhagalpur which is the main market of production of Tassar.

Irrigation Department

The Irrigation Department is divided into two parts, namely, Major Irrigation and Minor Irrigation. The Major Irrigation Section is controlled by the Executive Engineer, Waterways, South Bihar Irrigation Circle with his headquarters at Bhagalpur.

Minor Irrigation Department was created in August, 1960 with its headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation, with his headquarters is posted at Bhagalpur. He is under the administrative control of the Additional Director of Agriculture Engineer, Bihar, with his headquarters at Patna. There are ten Assistant Engineers to assist the work of Executive Engineer. They are posted in ten subdivisions, namely, Bhagalpur Sadar, Banka, Monghyr, Jamui. Dumka, Godda. Sahebganj, Pakur, Deoghar and Jamatra. Besides there are Overseers who work under the Assistant Engineer of Minor Irrigation.

The implements, namely, Bihar Plough and Japani weeder, etc., are distributed to the Blocks and Agriculturists by the Deputy Director of Agriculture.

The details of the execution of the Major Irrigation Schemes have been given separately.

Labour Office

The District Labour Officer, Bhagalpur with his headquarters at Bhagalpur is under the direct control of the Divisional Labour

Commissioner with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Labour Commissioner is the superior authority of Labour Officer.

There are five Labour Inspectors who are posted at Banka, Belhar, Naugachhia, Colgong and Bhagalpur proper. The District Labour Officer is assisted by five Labour Inspectors.

Postal Department

The Postal Department including Telegraphs and Telephones is under the Central Government. For the administration of postal services there is one Superintendent of Post Offices with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. He is directly under the control of the Postmaster General, Bihar with his headquarters at Patna.

The jurisdiction of the Superintendent roughly extends over the whole of the district of Bhagalpur. For administrative purposes and for running the services efficiently the entire Bhagalpur Postal Division is subdivided into four subdivisions, namely, Bhagalpur South, Bhagalpur North, Santhal Parganas East and Santhal Parganas West. Each subdivision is under an Inspector of the rank of junior selection grade of the Postal Services. The headquarters of Bhagalpur South and Bhagalpur North Inspector is at Bhagalpur. The headquarters of the Inspector of Santhal Parganas West is at Deoghar and Santhal Parganas East is at Sahebganj.

The Bhagalpur Post Office is the Head Post Office. There are 50 Sub-post Offices at Bhagalpur and two hundred sixty-seven branch Post Offices. The majority of the Sub-post Offices are served direct by mail communication with Railway Mail Service and few are served by roads through motor buses and runners.

The two hundred and sixty-seven branch Post Offices are located at the bigger villages and serve the village neighbourhood. Some of them are located at villages where there are police *thanas*.

Education Department

The Education Department at the district level is controlled by the District Education Officer with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Regional Deputy Director of Education with his headquarters at Bhagalpur is the immediate superior of the District Education Officer. The Director of Public Instructions with his headquarters at Patna, is the head of the department at the State level. At the district level the District Education Officer is assisted by a number of Officers in running his department efficiently.

Each subdivision is placed incharge of a Subdivisional Education Officer with the headquarters at each of the Civil Subdivisional headquarters.

At the district level the District Education Officer is helped by the District Superintendent of Education, District Social Education Organiser, District Inspectress of Schools, Deputy Superintendent of Education and Deputy Superintendent of Basic Education and Physical Education with their headquarters at Bhagalpur.

There are three Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the District, two at Sadar Subdivision and one at Banka Subdivision. Below the Deputy Inspector of Schools there are 28 Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the whole district, each of them is responsible for the educational activities in his respective circle. There is one Deputy Inspectress of Schools in the district to help the District Inspectress of Schools in her activities regarding girls' education in the district.

Animal Husbandry Department

The District Animal Husbandry Officer, Bhagalpur with his headquarters at Bhagalpur is incharge of the Animal Husbandry Department in the district. He is under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Bhagalpur Range, Bhagalpur with his headquarters at Bhagalpur and the Director of Animal Husbandry with his headquarters at Patna.

Before September, 1954, the present Animal Husbandry Department was running under two different departments, namely, Veterinary Department and Animal Husbandry Department under two technical heads. During September, 1954 these two departments were amalgamated and Director of Veterinary Services was designated as Director of Animal Husbandry, Bihar.

The District Animal Husbandry Officer is assisted by the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Supervisors whose strength is 13, who are posted in each block to look after the Animal Husbandry work. There are two stockmen and one messenger to assist the Animal Husbandry Supervisors. Apart from them a Live-stock Inspector and a Fodder Overseer are working under the guidance of the District Animal Husbandry Officer at the district headquarters, Bhagalpur.

During the First Five Year Plan four schemes were taken, namely, opening of Artificial Insemination Centre and Sub-centres, Hospital and Dispensary (Class I Veterinary Dispensary), distribution of bulls and opening of Key-Villages in Bihar. During Second Five Year Plan nine additional schemes started.

A brief review of important schemes are given below:—Scheme concerning improvements of breeds—to improve thelocal breeds of cattle—the two schemes, namely, Bull distribution and Artificial Insemination are in operation.

(a) Bull Distribution Scheme

This scheme was started in First Five Year Plan and also has been taken up in the Second Five Year Plan. Under this scheme a minimum of ten *Hariana* Bulls are distributed in each block and rupees ten in North Bhagalpur and rupees thirty in South Bhagalpur is given to each Bull-keeper per month for the maintenance.

(b) Artificial Insemination Scheme

This scheme was taken in the First Five Year Plan and during this period one Artificial Insemination Centre was started at Banka. During Second Five Year Plan six Artificial Insemination Centres were opened at Bihpur, Pirpainti, Sonhaula, Sultanganj, Naugachhia and Bhagalpur. Under the six main Artificial Insemination Centres, thirteen Artificial Insemination Sub-centres are running. Key-village Inspector remains incharge of Artificial Insemination Centre, Bihpur. Livestock Overseer remains incharge of the Artificial Insemination Main Centre of Pirpainti, Sonhaula, Sultanganj and Naugachhia under the supervision of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

Eradication of Rinderpest

This scheme started functioning in March, 1960. Under this scheme it has been decided to eradicate Rinderpest disease by vaccinating all the heads of cattle.

Poultry Development

Under this scheme one Poultry Extension Centre has been opened at Bounsi and three hatching Centres are opened at Sabour, Banka and Katoria under Second Five Year Plan.

Fodder Development

To encourage the farmers fodder growing seeds and cuttings of different types of fodder are distributed to the farmers free of cost. Besides this at each block headquarters in two acres of land different types of fodder grass, namely, Napier, Para, Lucern and Barseem have been introduced in the fodder demonstration plots.

Cattle Show

To encourage the cattle owners for improving their livestock, one cattle show in each block is organised once in a year and one district cattle show in a year.

Public Works Department

Prior to 1955, there was only one Subdivisional Officer of Public Works Department at Bhagalpur, who used to perform the duties of the Executive Engineer and who was directly under the Superintending Engineer, East Bihar Circle with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The subdivision used to be called Bhagalpur Independent Subdivision. But in the year 1955, the Bhagalpur Division was created with four subdivisions under its jurisdiction, namely, Bhagalpur, Banka, Sabour and Godda subdivisions.

The Division is under the charge of an Executive Engineer with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. He is the administrative head at the district level. In the middle of the year 1956, another division, namely, Dumka was created and the Godda subdivision with all the work under it was transferred to that Division.

The main duties of the Executive Engineer is to supervise the execution of the scheme, look after the works of the Subdivisional Officers under him, to control expenditure and give payments to contractors. He is the administrative controller of the Superintending Engineer, East Bihar Circle, who has his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Chief Engineer, Bihar, with his headquarters at Patna is the technical and administrative head of the department.

At present, the Bhagalpur Division constitutes three subdivisions, namely, Bhagalpur, Sabour and Banka with one Subdivisional Officer in respect of each subdivision. Subdivisional Officer is assisted by Overseers.

There are 15 Sectional Officers in Bhagalpur Division to supervise the execution of work under the guidance of the Subdivisional Officers.

The Executive Engineer inspects the work and management of the Subdivisional Officers. The Subdivisional Officers and Overseers are responsible for the management and execution of works within their respective jurisdiction.

Prior to the First Five Year Plan, there was hardly any well surfaced Public Works Department Road in Bhagalpur district. A few roads are taken over under the Post-War Development Scheme and improvement work started in 1949, which gained momentum when the First Five Year Plan was started in 1951. At the end of First Five Year Plan, 69 miles were surfaced. By the end of the Second Five Year Plan, 151 miles of new roads have also been completed.

Many building projects for different departments of the Government have also been completed and many are in progress. With the development of Bhagalpur district, it is expected that many new building schemes will be taken up by this division during the Third Five Year Plan.

MALARIA DEPARTMENT

The Malaria Department at Bhagalpur and Banka was established in the month of February, 1959. The Anti-Malaria Officers at Bhagalpur and Banka are the administrative head of their respective circles with their headquarters at Bhagalpur and Banka. Both are under the administrative control of the Chief Malaria Officer, Patna with his headquarters at Patna.

The Anti-Malaria Officer, Bhagalpur is assisted by four assistant Anti-Malaria Officers, each of them is incharge of four sub-units, namely, Bhagalpur proper, Colgong, Rajaun and Amarpur, under the jurisdiction and supervision of Anti-Malaria Officer, Bhagalpur. There are 17 Malaria Inspectors and 78 Superior Field Workers under the guidance of Anti-Malaria Officer.

The Anti-Malaria Officer, Banka is assisted by an Assistant Anti-Malaria Officer, each at Banka, Katoria, Jhajha and Lakshmipur. Besides them there are 20 Malaria Inspectors and 20 Malaria Field Workers under the guidance of Anti-Malaria Officer, Banka. There are four sub-units, namely, Banka, Katoria, Jhajha and Lakshmipur under the jurisdiction and supervision of Anti-Malaria Officer, Banka.

D. D. T. is also being used by the Malaria Department. It has brought about a desired effect to a very great extent.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

The District Agriculture Officer, Bhagalpur, is the administrative head of the department. He is under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bhagalpur Range with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Director of Agriculture is the administrative head of the Agricultural Department at the State level. This department is functioning in Bhagalpur since 1905.

There is one Subdivisional Agriculture Officer at Banka. He is under the administrative control of the District Agriculture Officer.

The District Agriculture Officer is assisted by a team of subject matter specialists in Agronomy, Botany, Chemistry, Mechanics, Engineering, Marketing, Plant Protection, Well-boring and Fishery. Their job is to co-ordinate the result of research from laboratories to the farmers in the fields and to train the village level workers and Agricultural Extension Supervisors in different blocks on the latest findings of research for disseminating them.

The Subdivisional Agriculture Offices [illegible] of specialists in Fishery, Horticulture, Plant Protection, Engineering and Agricultural Extension Supervisors working in [illegible] blocks of the district. The entire district has been covered with the different kinds of blocks where the Agricultural programmes and propaganda are being carried out through Agricultural Extension Blocks. One Agricultural Inspector and five village level workers have been posted to look after the work of agricultural programme.

There are sixteen Seed Multiplication Farms in Bhagalpur district where experiments and trials are frequently done. There is an Agricultural College at Sabour, 6 miles east from Bhagalpur This college is a unique feature not only in this district but in whole State of Bihar. The details of this college have been given separately.

Forest Range Office

The Forest Range Office of Bhagalpur district is placed under the Range Officers with their headquarters at Banka and Katoria. Both Range Officers, one at Banka and another at Katoria are under the direct control of the Divisional Forest Officer, Deoghar with headquarters at Deoghar.

Banka and Katoria Ranges were established in 1946. Both ranges have done good progress in their work. Banka Range consists of 94 square miles demarcated area. Katoria Range consists of 70 square miles demarcated area. There are four beats, namely, Banka, Lakshmipur, Vitya and Belhar and there are twenty-five sub-beats under Banka Range. Sub-beats are looked after by Forest Guards.

The afforestation work is not done by Banka Range but the Katoria Range manages the afforestation work.

Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board

There is a Secretary for the District Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. He is under the control of the District Magistrate, who is the Honorary President of the Board. State Soldiers', Sailors and Airmen's Board, Patna is the head office of the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board. The Governor of the State is the President of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board. The State Board is affiliated to Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board with headquarters at New Delhi.

There are three districts under the jurisdiction of this board, namely, Bhagalpur, Saharsa and Purnea with their headquarters at Bhagalpur, There is a managing committee at Bhagalpur to look after the welfare matters of the Board. The main aim of this Board is to look after the welfare of the ex-service men and the

family of the serving soldiers. The total strength of [illegible] [illegible] men including ex-service men, serving personnel [illegible] (1956). The Board tries to help the ex-service personnel in securing service and in their litigations. The Board also helps the relatives of the service-men in their troubles.

Life Insurance Corporation

After nationalisation of Life Insurance work the Life Insurance Corporation was set-up. There is a Branch Manager who is the administrative head of the Bhagalpur Branch office with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. He is under the direct control of the Senior Divisional Manager with his headquarters at Patna. He is controlled by the Zonal Manager with his headquarters at Calcutta. There is an Assistant Branch Manager posted at Naugachhia, under the control of the Branch Manager. Besides there are fourteen Field Officers out of whom nine are posted at Bhagalpur Sadar, two at Colgong, one at Sultanganj, one at Bihpur and one at Gopalpur.

CHAPTER X

LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

INCIDENCE OF CRIME

The district is divided into two parts by the river Ganga. The northern part consists of three police stations and the southern part consists of nineteen police stations. The land in the northern portion of the district has less fertility and borders Purnea and Saharsa districts. Both Purnea and Saharsa districts border Nepal. Criminals from Nepal *terai* have been responsible for many crimes in Purnea, Saharsa and Bhagalpur districts. The district has *diara* lands and it is a fact that crimes connected with land and crops like riots, etc., are common in *diara* areas. *Diara* villages have been known to harbour criminals both local and foreign. Regarding the incidence of crime the last *District Gazetteer* by J. Byrne (1911) has the following :—

Crimes.—"Bhagalpur compares favourably with other districts of the division from the point of view of criminality. Of course there always are a number of cases of theft and housebreaking and riots of an agrarian nature, but there are no purely criminal tribes resident in the district. In years gone by, river-pirates were an intolerable nuisance on the river Ganges near Colgong in particular, but their depredations have long ceased.

"In 1903, owing to short rainfall, an outbreak of grain looting occurred in Banka subdivision and lasted for three days (30th and 31st July and 1st August) till a heavy fall of rain came and put a stop to it. The grain dealers had formed a combination to put up prices and the people of the locality would not endure it any longer. About 134 persons were convicted.

"In 1903-04 a series of professional dacoities took place in the north of the district, headed by one Bhadda Jat. He was tried in July 1904 with eighteen of his gang, and sentenced to transportation for life.

"In 1908 there was an increase of thefts and burglaries, due directly to the prevalent scarcity. These crimes are inevitable and are practically impossible of detection.

Criminal Classes.—"Most of the criminals are to be found in the ranks of Dharhis, Musahars, Doms and Dusadhs in

this district. No genuine criminal tribes are to be found in Bhagalpur. The Dharhis approach most nearly to a genuine criminal tribe. They nominally live by manual labour and the breeding of animals, but in reality they rely very largely on thieving for their livelihood. It is said that they look individually on specific localities as their own special preserve, and the exclusive right of thieving therein is so highly valued that if another Dharhi poaches in that special preserve, inter-marriage between the two families becomes impossible. In the neighbouring district of Monghyr, these Dharhis are more numerous and more dangerous than here.

"The Dusadhs are traditionally swine-keepers, village chaukidars or watchmen and thieves. They and Musahars live largely by manual labour.

"Doms are basket-makers and bamboo-weavers; they also dispose of the dead bodies and act as common scavengers. They are undoubtedly looked on as the most degraded class in the social system."

Independence came to India in 1947 and was preceded and followed by communal riots. Bhagalpur also was the scene of communal tension and there was some exodus of Muslim population from this district. There were instances of unbridled fanaticism at different parts of the district and such incidents in Monghyr district and particularly one at Lakhanpur village in Tarapur P. S. had some repercussions in Bhagalpur district.

The transition period that followed the declaration of independence marked a high incidence of crime as was usual throughout the province in this period. The reasons had their roots in the past The last Great War, after which independence followed, left the country in a certain amount of chaos The anti-social elements taking advantage of the transition, adopted lawless attitude which was mainly responsible for the high incidence of crime. In addition there was draught, resulting in failure of crops, continuously for a number of years after independence, in 1947. The high price position created during last Great War, has continued and has led to economic depression and food shortage in this district as in the others. This was an incentive to crime.

After independence, the army was demobilised and illicit traffic in arms followed and it flowed into the criminal gangs, who got support from the demobilised personnel particularly of lower ranks also. The Criminal Tribes Act and Manual were abolished after the independence which gave much impetus to this section of the

criminal tribes. These were some of the factors which marked the high incidence of crime particularly during the transition period that followed the last Great War and independence.

Lack of supervision and control owing to cessation of the operations of the Criminal Tribes Act over the criminal tribes, led to bad results initially. There are some noted criminal gangs in this district, as mentioned below who got no less incentive during this period.

Some of the noted gangs are—

(1) Kutubganj gang of Mojahidpur, headed by some outsiders hailing from Monghyr and Dumka.
(2) Siri Gangota's Gang of Nathnagar P. S.
(3) Udhwa Chamar's Gang of Mufassil P. S.
(4) Chhanguri Dhanuk's gang of Colgong.
(5) Kathin Singh's gang as also Siwanpur Chamar Gang of Pirpainty P. S.
(6) Sakram and Tarar village criminals of Sonhaula P. S.
(7) Banshipur-Chatma Gang of Shambhuganj.
(8) Ex-C. T. Act Dusadh's Gang of Bounsi.
(9) Gang consisting of Dhanuk criminals of Dhuraiya P. S.
(10) Dharis and Gopes hailing from Barbigha P. S. in Monghyr helped local criminals of Colgong.
(11) Dusadhs and Musahars living in the vast *diara* lands on either side of Ganga.

Most of the gangs are to be found in the poorer sections of the population inhabiting the *diara* area on either side of Ganga of this district, such as Dharis, Musahars, Doms and Dusadhs. Although there are no genuine criminal tribes now, several criminal gangs have sprung up during the post independence period.

In the years 1957-58, there were series of professional dacoities and these two years were the peak period in almost all forms of crimes, the main reason being the continuous high price of commodities, and draught resulting in failure of crops, that marked the post independence period unceasingly. The prevalent scarcity led to outbreak of burglaries, particularly in the period 1952--54, and 1956—59. Similar was the position of dacoities during 1053-54, as also in 1957-58, when sweeping changes were being effected in the administrative machinery, owing to developmental projects by the Government.

The high incidence of riots has been associated with land disputes, that followed the transition owing to sweeping land reforms of various kinds including abolition of zamindari. *Diara* area has always been noted for such riots.

The north of the Ganga particularly Bihpur, Naugachhia and Gopalpur thanas which border the district of Purnea, and Colgong and Pirpainty, which border Santhal Parganas district have to put up with the depredation of bordering criminals from Santhal Parganas and Bengal which border that district. While on the borders of Monghyr the depredations of Monghyr criminals forming link with local criminals, particularly the gangs led by Hari Koiri of Tarapur and Bindwara criminals of Monghyr Town, also have been responsible for quite a few crimes in this district.

The statistics that follow for 1950—60 indicate the position of crime in Bhagalpur.

The number of charge sheets are fairly good, but the number of acquittals is large. Now professional lawyers have been appointed as District Prosecutors and Assistant District Prosecutors on higher pay, in places of the usual Prosecuting Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. In this district there are two courts, viz., Bhagalpur and Banka. In Bhagalpur, a Senior District Prosecutor equal to the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police is in charge with five Assistant District Prosecutors and in Banka two Assistant District Prosecutors form the prosecuting staff. The crime figures for the last eleven years under different heads and total cognizable crimes given in the two statements below would show the position of crime in the district.

CRIME STATISTICS

CRIME UNDER DIFFERENT HEADS FROM 1950 TO 1960

Year.	Murder.	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Burglary.	Theft.	Riot.	Swindling.	Kidnapping.	Rape.	Adultery.	B.L. case. 109, Cr. P.C.	B.L. case. 110, Cr. P.C.	Cattle theft.	Smuggling case.	Traffic accident.	Gang case.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1950 ..	45	71	40	973	688	172	14	11	3	..	80	31	25	8	Not available.	..
1951 ..	29	97	46	1,001	761	135	16	12	4	..	86	26	39	10	Ditto	..
1952 ..	48	87	30	1,194	520	193	18	20	5	..	92	32	42	6	Ditto	..
1953 ..	44	111	48	1,356	506	217	18	7	4	..	84	28	8	9	Ditto	..
1954 ..	29	106	50	1,165	513	201	23	10	8	..	128	30	26	2	Ditto	..
1955 ..	17	55	37	668	494	156	9	7	4	.	83	35	18	5	Ditto	..
1956 ..	30	88	36	1,161	505	167	32	13	13	..	82	66	28	8	Ditto	..
1957 ..	52	159	66	1,424	616	226	9	18	4	..	102	70	44	12	71	..
1958 ..	34	114	59	1,354	670	151	14	15	8	..	94	48	49	4	68	..
1959 ..	28	50	28	1,238	598	211	17	17	6	..	85	62	34	6	114	..
1960 ..	32	62	32	1,157	646	271	13	11	1	..	63	59	45	10	120	..

TOTAL COGNIZABLE CRIME FROM 1950 TO 1960

Year.	Total cognizable reported.	Charge sheeted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1950 ..	2,786	624	332	292	
1951 ..	2,660	747	462	285	
1952 ..	2,283	629	353	276	
1953 ..	2,827	620	373	247	
1954 ..	1,998	446	243	203	
1955 ..	1,737	506	250	247	
1956 ..	1,911	443	259	184	
1957 ..	2,275	646	373	273	
1958 ..	2,260	617	301	256	
1959 ..	2,072	479	270	195 ..	14 cases still pending in court.
1960 ..	2,060	445	225	170	50 cases still pending in court.

From the statistics it appears that the high incidence of crime was more marked during the years 1957 and 1958 under all the heads. This was the period of high price of commodities, low yield of crops due to continued drought and unemployment made the people more prone to crimes. From the statistics it is also apparent that the peak period of burglaries were during 1952—54 and 1956—59 chiefly for the same reasons. Owing to the changes in the land reform measures and more particularly in the zamindari abolition resulting in *bujharat* the landlords engaged themselves in quarrels and rivalries for ownership of lands which led to the abrupt and sudden riots during this period. The incidence of crimes under robbery, theft, swindling, cattle theft and smuggling is more or less the same every year. The number of traffic accidents is increasing every year. The number of traffic accidents was 66 in 1958 but it has gone up by about 50 per cent in 1960 in comparison to the reported cases of 1958. The incidence of road accident has gone up in the recent years. Due to good roads the number of jeeps, buses, trucks and other types of vehicles has increased tremendously. Inexperienced men have managed to get driving licenses.

ORGANISATION OF POLICE FORCE AND REGULAR POLICE

The police organisation in 1911 has been described as follows in Byrne's Gazetteer :—

Police. "At present there are twelve thanas or police stations and ten independent outposts which are also investigating centres for cognizable offences, distributed as follows.—

Subdivision.	Thana.	Area (Square miles).	Independent outpost.
1	2	3	4
Sadar ..	Bhagalpur ..	181	Nathnagar.
	Colgong ..	413	Gopalpur. Pirpainty.
	Sultanganj ..	165	Shahkund.
	Bihpur ..	175	Nil.
Banka ..	Banka ..	354	Dhurja.
	Kataoria ..	534	Belhar.
	Amarpur ..	294	Rajaun.
Madhipura ..	Madhipura ..	547	Nil.
	Bangaon ..	263	Nil.
	Kishanganj ..	366	Nil.
Supaul ..	Supaul ..	593	Dagmara, Daparkha.
	Pratapganj ..	341	Bhimnagar.

"The police force of the district consists of 1 District Superintendent. 4 Inspectors, 28 Sub-Inspectors, 42 Head constables, 378 Constables and 4,770 Chowkidars. Each of the four subdivisions has its Police Inspector who is a gazetted officer. The subdivisions are divided up into smaller areas each of which is a police-station. There may or may not be outposts dependent on each police station. Again, each police station contains a number of dafadari circles, each circle is under the charge of a dafadar and contains about 20 village chowkidars.

"The ordinary police force is divided into four classes—armed, civil, town and rural police. The armed police consist of the district police reserve, created by order of the Government

of India to deal with organised disturbances, and always kept up to full strength. They are not employed except by order of the District Magistrate. The civil police perform all the ordinary duties of escorting prisoners, working at police stations and outposts and attending the courts. The literate among them supply the police clerical staff, and one writer-constable is attached to each police station and one literate constable to each outpost. Town police are employed only at night within the town or municipality in which they are enlisted.

"There is a constables' training school at Nathnagar and a company of military police, 100 strong, is maintained at Bhagalpur."

With the expansion of administration and particularly the change in the character of the administration, the Police Force has had a big expansion.

The sanctioned strength of Police Force during the year 1960 of this district was one Superintendent of Police, six Deputy Superintendents of Police, seventeen Inspectors, one Reserve Sergeant Major, two Sergeants, two Jamadars, forty-two Sub-Inspectors, fifty four Assistant Sub-Inspectors, thirty-six Havildars and 960 Constables. In addition to the above staff, there are one Sub-Inspector, two Havildars and twenty-two Constables as traffic staff for controlling traffic in town area.

The police organisation is headed by the Superintendent of Police with headquarters at Bhagalpur. He is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police at Bhagalpur. The Superintendent of Police is assisted by one Deputy Superintendent of Police in the office on the district level and four other Deputy Superintendents of Police posted in different circles assist him on the circle levels, and by another in the prosecution work called Senior District Prosecutor, who serves as the liaison between the Magistracy and the Police Administration of the district.

There are twenty two police stations and eighteen outposts in the district. For the police administration the district is divided into four circles each having several police stations and outposts. The police-stations and outposts are distributed as follows :—

(i) Bhagalpur Sadar subdivision.—(i) Bhagalpur town Circle—Bhagalpur Kotwali, Mojahidpur and Nathnagar Police-Stations. Jogsar, Sujaganj, Bhikhanpur, Barari, Mojahidpur, Babarganj, Nathnagar and Champanagar outposts.

(*ii*) Sadar Circle—Sabour, Jagdishpur, Colgong, Sonhaula, Pirpainty, Shahkund and Sultanganj police stations. Colgong and Barahat outposts.

(*iii*) Naugachhia Circle—Naugachhia, Bihpur and Gopalpur police stations. Dholbaja, Kadwa, Kharik, Parbatta, Sonbarsa, Bellaura, Bhawanipur and Ismailpur outposts.

(2) Banka Subdivision—Banka Circle—Banka, Bounsi, Dhuraiya, Rajaun, Katoria, Chanan, Belhar, Amarpur and Shambhuganj Police Stations. Phaliduar outpost.

Out of the eighteen outposts nine are situated in the town area and the remaining are situated in the rural areas.

In the post independence period there have been some changes in the administrative machinery in the district with a view to bring about an improvement in the integrity and outlook of the thana officers. Unlike other police stations except in Patna district in the State, none of the police stations are placed in charge of Sub-Inspectors rather each of the police stations except Shahkund, Sonhaula, Dhuraiya, Belhar and Rajaun have been placed in charge of Inspectors and the Circles have been placed in charge of Deputy Superintendents of Police. This has been done as an experimental measure since 1953 and is still continuing. Seventeen police stations are under the charge of Inspectors and five police stations are under the charge of Sub-Inspectors. Each police station is generally manned by one Inspector of Police (officer incharge) and one Sub-Inspector of Police, one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police, one Writer-Constable, and eight Constables. But the strength varies according to the size and needs of police stations. In big police stations two, three or four Sub-Inspectors of Police and similar number of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police are posted.

Each of the outposts whether rural or urban is under the direct control of the officer in charge of the police station concerned and is manned by Sub-Inspectors or Assistant Sub-Inspectors according to the necessity and volume of work, nature and importance of the outposts concerned. For the rural areas there are 108 Dafadars and 1,205 Chowkidars in this district. There have been some ancillary establishments to help the regular police force. They are—(1) Anchal Force; (2) Home Guards, (3) Village Volunteer Force and Village Resistance Groups.

(1) *Anchal Force.*—This force was organised in 1956 mainly for the purpose of guarding and escorting Government revenues entrusted to the Block Development Officers in different Community Development Centres. The strength of the force is likely to increase with more of Blocks coming into operation. At present the force consists of one Sergeant, one Sub-Inspector, one Jamadar, two Assistant Sub-Inspectors, twenty Havildars and 138 Constables.

The unit for each anchal consists of one Havildar and eight constables.

(2) *Home Guards*.—This force was organised in 1948 with a view to help the administration in various aspects especially the Police Department for patrolling the crime-affected areas and also the prevention of crimes and maintenance of law and order. Their services may be useful in case of any emergency arising in and out of the district also. The strength of this force is as follows :—

> One Battalion Commander, one Battalion Adjutant, four Company Commanders, one Jamadar Head Clerk, three Havildar clerks, three Orderlies, nine Platoon Commanders, twenty-seven Section Ladrs and 297 Home Guards. This force acts as auxiliary to the regular Police force in the district. They are trained, equipped and armed and are under the Superintendent of Police.

(3) *Village Resistance Groups*.—To meet the problem of dacoities in the post independence period, these groups were formed out of the members of the public for the purpose of patrolling and dacoity control in different police stations. The villagers were exhorted to organise themselves into a disciplined body and to enroll volunteers. In addition to this the *Panchayats* organise Village Volunteer Force in each *Gram Panchayat*. They are also to act with the regular and rural police for the purpose of law, order and crime control measures.

Radio and Wireless Stations

There are three wireless stations in the district, one at Bhagalpur, one at Banka and one at Naugachia. They receive and transmit information.

District Crime Bureau

The Bureau consists of one Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors and two Writer-Constables. They are Criminal Investigation Department staff and work in plain clothes. Their main duty is to maintain records of criminal gangs operating within and outside the district and help the regular police force in investigation and crime control work.

In addition there is a troop of a Mounted Military Police with twenty-seven ponies posted at Bhagalpur to quell disturbances if any in the Bhagalpur division. The troop consists of one Jamadar, two Dafadars, two Naiks, two Lance Naiks, sixteen Sepoys, one Bugler, one Farrier, one Saddler and one Compounder.

There is a Constables' Training School at Nathnagar, where the trainees are all constables from different districts of this Province. The school is under a Deputy Superintendent of Police known as the Principal. He has a staff to assist him in imparting a course of training to the new recruits in drill and in police duties.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAY POLICE

There is a Government Railway Police Station at Bhagalpur Junction situated on the Eastern Railway platform. The strength of the police station is one Sub-Inspector (Officer incharge), one Assistant Sub-Inspector, one Havildar, one Writer-Constable and eighteen Constables.

The main function of the police station is to check the railway crimes in the district. This police station covers the whole of the district. The jurisdiction of the police station is from Gangania railway station to Mirza-chowki and from Bhagalpur to Mandar Hill railway station. The area covered by this police station is about 80 running miles. It is under the administrative control of the Superintendent, Railway Police with headquarters at Patna.

JAILS AND LOCK-UP

There are three jails at Bhagalpur, namely, Central Jail, Special Central Jail and Female Jail. The jails in 1911 have been described as follows in Byrne's Gazetteer :—

> "A Central Jail with accommodation for about 1,960 prisoners is situated at Bhagalpur. In it blanket-making is the most important industry as already described in chapter VIII, 33 power looms and 34 handlooms being used.
>
> "In addition, carpet-making, rope and mat-making, oil pressing and grain grinding are carried on.
>
> "At Banka, Supaul and Madhipura there are subsidiary jails in which accused persons are kept while awaiting trial if they are not released on bail, and short-term prisoners (sentenced to not more than fourteen days' imprisonment) are kept to serve out their sentences. Oil pressing and grain grinding are the industries carried on in the subsidiary jails."

There has been a great expansion in the jails since Byrne's time. During the Civil Disobedience Movement Bhagalpur Central Jail was expanded to accommodate a large number of political prisoners. The jails at Bhagalpur have got independent status with separate Superintendents. They are under the direct administrative control of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bihar.

Central Jail

The jail is under a whole time Superintendent with a staff of Medical Officer (Gazetted), one Jailor, five Assistant Jailors, one Head Clerk, three Clerks, one Chief Head Warder, fourteen Head Warders and two hundred and five Warders. The registered accomodation of the jail is for 1,870 prisoners. The average jail population during the last seven years was as follows :—

Year	Population
1954	2,192.91
1955	2,168.49
1956	2,362.76
1957	2,357.68
1958	1,862.49
1959	1,929.52
1960	1,897.96

All the jails of the State are divided into different circles and Bhagalpur Central Jail is one of the Circle Jails. There are three affiliated district jails at the three district headquarters at Monghyr, Dumka and Purnea. The establishment charges of the warder staff of the three district jails and the district jails are affiliated to the Central Jail, Bhagalpur.

Prison discipline and welfare

Discipline of the standard required under the Jail Manual is maintained. There is suitable arrangement for imparting elementary education inside the Central Jail, Bhagalpur. There are ten night social education centres, one Upper Primary School and a Basic Middle School. A library is maintained. There are arrangements for musical recreation. Radio sets with microphones and gramophones have been provided. There is a drama party of the prisoners. They are provided with apparatus for outdoor and indoor games. An experiment of release of prisoners on parole system has been introduced. Many of them were sent to open camps for the implementation of the scheme of Five Year Plan.

The State Government has very recently introduced an Act, "The Bihar Probation of Offenders' Act, 1959". According to this Act a separate Probation department has been working at Bhagalpur. The head of the institution is designated as Principal Probation Officer who is the Superintendent of Central Jail, Bhagalpur. Under him one Probation Officer, two Assistant Probation Officers and a Lady Assistant Probation Officer have been appointed. The object of the scheme is to make a rational and human approach to the problem of delinquency. The woodenness of the old system under which the idea that once a prisoner, he is always condemned in society has to go. To work out this scheme offenders are frequently released on probation of good conduct. By virtue of this Act, the offenders instead of being sent to the jails to

serve their imprisonment, are released by trying courts and placed under the supervision of District Probation Officer for a certain period.

There is a Board of Visitors consisting of officials and non-officials.

Industries

There is a large woollen factory in this jail. About 750 prisoners are required daily to work therein. The main industries of this jail are blanket weaving, smithy, carpentry, alluminium work, tailoring and cottage industries like cloth weaving, daree, newar and carpet weaving. The overall annual investment of Government for the industries in this jail amounts to Rs. 12 to 15 lakhs. The factory is supervised by the technical Deputy Superintendent.

Garden

The garden of this jail, an area of about 18 acres, is situated outside the walls where prisoners work.

Special Central Jail

This jail was started in February, 1958 with a view to keep all the refractory prisoners at one place so that there may not be any disturbance due to the refractory prisoners in the rest of the jails of Bihar. This is the only jail of this type in Bihar. It has a separate establishment and has nothing to do with the local Central Jail.

The jail is under a whole time Superintendent who has been provided with a part time Medical Officer, one Jailor, five Assistant Jailors, two Clerks, one Typist, one Chief Head Warder, fourteen Head Warders, one hundred and thirty-three Warders, two Sub-Assistant Surgeons and one Compounder. The registered accommodation of this jail is 3,278 prisoners. The average jail population since it has been started is given below :—

1958	..	..	..	..	944.17
1959	..	..	..	..	813.75
1960	..	..	..	..	695.48

The same pattern of organisation like the Central Jail is maintained for keeping up prison discipline and welfare.

District Female Jail

This is the only Female Jail in the State. There is a whole time Lady Superintendent with a staff.

The Jailor of the Bhagalpur Central Jail is at present also the Jailor of this Jail. The Medical Officer of the Central Jail is the Medical Officer of this jail and the prisoners of this jail get medicines from the Central Jail. This Female Jail is located in the premises of the Central Jail.

The registered accommodation of the Female Jail is for 89 prisoners. The average population of this jail since its inception has been as follows :—

1958	..	..	..	..	78.23
1959	..	..	..	..	79.98
1960	..	..	..	..	74.99

Women in the districts of the State sentenced to more than three months' sentence are sent to this jail. The same pattern for maintenance of prison discipline and welfare as in the Central Jail is followed here also.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Previous to 1st July, 1957, criminal cases were tried at the first instance by the Magistrates, either of Bihar Civil Service or Subordinate Civil Service commonly known as Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates. They used to be vested by the Government with criminal powers as a First, Second or Third Class Magistrates. They were under the control of the District Magistrate. These officers were empowered to hold preliminary enquiry in cases triable by the court of sessions and commit them to sessions court. Appeals from the decisions of Second and Third Class Magistrates were heard by the District Magistrate or some other Magistrate specially empowered to hear appeals and appeals from the decisions of the First Class Magistrates were heard by the District Judge or the Additional District Judge. The decisions of the District or Additional District Judges could be taken up in revision or review to the Hon'ble Patna High Court.

Under the above set up the District Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates had the dual role of the administration of criminal justice besides their executive work. This dual system of mixing up the executive and judicial functions in the one and the same person was not an unmixed good and often did not inspire confidence that justice was being done. It was commonly held that a person who has to carry on executive functions, may not always be in a position to do full justice to his judicial work because of extra judicial information as an Executive Officer. It was felt that if fair and impartial justice was to be done there should be a separation of the two functions and one and the same person should not be made both a judge and an Executive Magistrate. Article 50 of the Indian Constitution also gave this directive.

It was on the 1st of July, 1957, that the separation of the judicial and executive functions was carried out in Bhagalpur Judgeship. Bhagalpur Judgeship comprises of two districts, viz., Bhagalpur and Saharsa. Judicial Magistrates were put under the District Judge while the Executive Magistrates were put under the District Magistrate.

Broadly there are two categories of criminal cases; one under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the other under different Acts other than the Indian Penal Code, such as 34 Police Act, Indian Railways Act, Cattle Trespass Act, Cruelty to Animals Act, Epidemic Diseases Act, Motor Vehicles Act, Payment of Wages Act, Municipal Act, Payment of Minimum Wages Act, Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, Bihar Sales Tax Act, Treasure Trove Act, Indian Boiler Act, Bengal Irrigation Act, Bengal Vaccination Act, Sections 144, 145, 107, 109, 110, Cr. P. C. (Preventive Sections), etc.

Cases under the first category are of two kinds—cognizable and non-cognizable. Cognizable cases are those which are taken cognizance of by Police. The Police investigates and submits final reports or charge-sheets to the Subdivisional Magistrates concerned. Cases for which charge-sheets are submitted are ripe for hearing and the Subdivisional Magistrate transfers them to the Munsif-Magistrates or Judicial Magistrates for trial. In cases where final reports are submitted, the Subdivisional Magistrate has to apply his judicial mind; he may accept the police report which means according to him the cases are not *prima facie* established and the accused persons should not be put to their trial. He has the prerogative to order the Police to submit charge-sheet, if he thinks the Police report should not be accepted. After charge-sheet is submitted the case is sent for trial to the Munsif-Magistrate or to the Judicial Magistrate.

Complaints for non-cognizable offences are filed by the aggrieved party before the Subdivisional Magistrates. If from the statement on oath of the complainant, the Subdivisional Magistrate concludes that the case is *prima facie* not made out, he may dismiss the complaint outright. If he wants he may hold an enquiry himself or he may order any Magistrate or the Police or any respectable person to hold an enquiry and to submit report on which he may hold or order for a further enquiry or he may dismiss the complaint or he may summon the accused. The case is transferred to the Munsif-Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate for trial. The Subdivisional Magistrate's orders could be taken to the District Judge in appeal or review.

Appeals from the decisions of the Munsif-Magistrates and Judicial Magistrates are heard by the Sessions Judge or Additional Judge to whom the cases are transferred by the District and Sessions Judge. Decisions of the District or Additional District Judge

could be taken to the Patna High Court and finally to the Supreme Court.

The second category cases. viz., those that do not come under the purview of the Indian Penal Code, but are offences against other Acts mentioned earlier are filed by the Department concerned and by the Police are triable by the Executive Magistrates. Sections 109 and 110 of the Cr. P. C. are cognizable and are tried by the Executive Magistrates. The number of such Magistrates in the district in 1960 is six. There are at present four such Magistrates who are posted in Sadar subdivision, two with 1st class powers and two with second class powers. Two such Magistrates are posted at Banka subdivision with first class powers.

The District and Sessions Judge is the administrative head of the Judicial Department of the judgeship. There are two Additional District and Sessions Judges in the judgeship posted at Bhagalpur. There are two permanent courts of Sub-Judges one at Bhagalpur and the other at Madhepura who are also vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. The court of Subordinate Judge was established at Madhepura in 1944. There is at present one Judicial Magistrate vested with the powers of a Magistrate 1st class at each of the subdivisions, viz., Madhepura, Saharsa and Supaul of the district of Saharsa and Banka of the district of Bhagalpur. There are three Judicial Magistrates all vested with the powers of a Magistrate 1st class at Bhagalpur Sadar. Besides these courts, there are two Munsif-Magistrates at Bhagalpur Sadar and one at Banka, vested with the powers of a Magistrate 1st class. At present, two Judicial Honorary Magistrates one vested with the powers of a Magistrate first class and another with the powers of a Magistrate second class are functioning at Banka. Statistics of sessions cases from 1950 to 1960 are given below :—

STATEMENT OF SESSIONS CASES OF BHAGALPUR JUDGESHIP.

Year.	Number of Sessions cases.*			Number of persons.			Number of witnesses examined or discharged.	Percentage of persons convicted to the total number of accused.
	Pending from before.	Received.	Total.	Disposed.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1950 ..	43	116	159	129	464	157	1,628	25.1
1951 ..	30	152	182	105	291	156	1,338	34.1
1952 ..	77	135	212	170	553	192	2,264	26
1953 ..	42	140	182	145	568	212	2,109	26
1954 ..	37	117	154	128	341	171	1,881	26
1955 ..	26	182	208	111	319	131	1,539	29
1956 ..	96	201	297	194	517	262	3,147	33.4
1957 ..	103	165	268	223	629	271	2,964	29.6
1958 ..	45	213	258	196	548	225	2,708	29
1959 ..	62	162	224	150	380	180	1,951	20.2
1960 ..	74	143	217	139	441	147	1,855	14.8

*In 1954 Saharsa was separated as a district consisting of Madhipura and Supaul subdivisions.

From the above statistics it appears that the number of cases fluctuates every year. But a high incidence of crime was recorded in the years 1956 and 1958. From the statistics it also appears that the number of acquittals is much higher than the convictions. The percentage of persons convicted to the total number of accused varies from about 14 per cent to 34 per cent.

The break up figures of important sessions cases from 1950 to 1960 are given below :—

LIST OF SESSIONS CASES OF DIFFERENT SECTIONS IN BHAGALPUR JUDGESHIP.

Year.	Section 302, I.P.C.	Section 304.	Sections 363, 364, 366 and 369.	Section 376.	Sections 395 and 396.	Sections 399 and 402.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1950 ..	48	20	3	10	23	2
1951 ..	44	6	4	5	61	21
1952 ..	46	6	3	9	53	10
1953 ..	45	7	6	2	41	13
1954 ..	41	12	5	2	53	8
1955 ..	60	9	4	2	54	14
1956 ..	48	15	10	8	46	22
1957 ..	34	10	2	8	46	14
1958 ..	31	4	7	3	37	8
1959 ..	28	10	4	3	23	5
1960 ..	34	3	2	8	18	1

From the perusal of the table it appears that murder cases are quite large in this district. The highest number of murder cases was in 1955 when 60 murder cases were committed to sessions and the lowest number was in 1959 when 28 cases were committed to sessions. The table further shows that dacoity cases are also quite large in the district. The highest number of dacoity was in the year 1951 when 61 cases were committed to sessions. The next highest number of dacoity cases was in the years 1952 and 1954 when 53 cases each were committed to sessions. From the table it also appears that the sessions cases of important sections are declining from 1957 but in sections 395 and 396, I.P.C. the cases appear to be declining from 1959.

ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE

Regarding Administration of Justice in Bhagalpur in Pre-British days Dr. K. K. Basu, Ph.D., mentions in Journal of Bihar and Orissa Research Society, Volume XX :—

"The earliest reference to Bhagalpur in the Muhammadan period is to be traced to Ain-i-Akbari, the *vade-mecum* of the Great Mughal's court, where it is mentioned as one of the 31st Mahals or parganas under the *Sarkar* or the revenue division of Munger (Monghyr), which had an assessment of over a lac of rupees. Bhagalpur continued to remain as an appanage to Munger till the last days of the Muslim rule, and it was in 1779 A.D., when by virtue of the authority bestowed upon the Hon'ble East India Company by the grant of the Diwani, which made them full-fledged administrators of Bengal, that William Harwood was appointed the first supervisor with his headquarter at Rajmahal to which was attached Bhagalpur. But it was not till 3rd December 1790 that the post of Naib Nazim was abolished, a new fouzdary arrangement inaugurated and four courts of circuits established.

"The writer of this article] while engaged in the work of examining provincial records of Bihar and Orissa discovered papers that throw light on the system of judicial administration that obtained at Bhagalpur at the dawn of the Company's rule. In the archives of the Collector of Bhagalpur there are two old correspondence, dated the 5th July and 1st November 1792, from the Collector of Boglipore (Bhagalpur) to the President, Council of Revenue, Fort William, Bengal, that furnish a report of the persons by whom the Zila Kazi office was held in the district of Bhagalpur, and of their functions, salaries and other incidental details.

"The aforesaid communications mention that Muhammad Laik held the office of the Zila Kazi of Bhagalpur under sanads granted to him by Ghulam Ali Khan, Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan and Muhammad Najm-ud-din Khan, the Kazi-ul-Kuzzats or the Chief Kazis of Suba Bihar on the 19th Muharram, 1195, Zilkaud 1198, and 1206 H.

"In those days Rajmahal formed a separate Zila and was under the jurisdiction of a separate Kazi. Ghulam Ali Reza, the Kazi of Rajmahal, received, like his compeer at Bhagalpur, sanads from the Chief Kazis Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan and Muhammad Najm-ud-din Khan on 1200 and 1206 H. respectively.

"The district Kazi of Bhagalpur exercised dual functions. In addition to the fouzdary or the criminal cases over which he presided, the Kazi had to witness deeds, perform

marriages and funerals in certain portion of his district. Theoretically though, the Zila Kazi had to decide the civil and criminal cases in addition to his function in connection with social matters, such as in attending the marriages or the funeral ceremonies, in practice, however, he personally attended the fouzdary court only, whereas his other duties alluded to above were conducted by his assistants, who, likewise, had under them sub-assistants for assisting and relieving them of a portion of their work. The appointments and dismissal of the principal assistants were in the hands of the Zila Kazi, and as a corollary, the sub-assistants were completely under the control of the principal assistants in matters of appointment and dismissal.

"The Zila Kazi of Bhagalpur had under him the following four principal assistants ;—

(1) Muhammad Ahmad residing at Bhagalpur,

(2) Muhammad Azim residing at Colgong,

(3) Nasimullah residing at Bihpur, and

(4) Muhammad Afzal residing at Gogri.

"Muhammad Ahmad, the Principal Naib for pargana Bhagalpur, had five inferior *Naibs* under him. Their names and stations are given thus. Khusru resided at Jubbarchuk, Ghulam Ashraf at Champanagar, Imam Bukhsh at Munniharee, Bhoju at Barkope and Hozaul at Dakhilkunj.

"The second Principal Naib, Muhammad Azim stationed at Colgong, had three assistants under him. They were Imam Bukhsh, Ghulam Ashruf and Imam Ali living at Mudban, Sultanganj and Barari respectively.

"Nasimullah, the third Principal Naib, having jurisdiction over the pargana Chohye and residing at Bihpur, had, like the Principal Naib at Colgong, three assistants, viz., Sobhani, Bashir and Sheikh Bakhsh posted at Muddadeis, Sa'iyidabad and Mouza Madheley respectively.

"The fourth Principal Naib, Muhammad Afzal, placed in charge of pargana Chohye, held his court at Gogri. He likewise, had three inferior Naibs, but their names and stations are not known.

"As seen above, the zila of Bhagalpur, which was placed within the jurisdiction of Suba Bihar, necessitated the appointments of nineteen judicial officers. Besides, the Zila Kazi whose headquarters was at Bhagalpur, there were

his four Principal Assistants, three of whom had three assistants each, the only exception being the Assistant at Bhagalpur, who had five instead [of three assistants under him.

"The monthly allowance of the District Kazi was rupees sixty-five, and those of his Principal Assistants rupees sixty only. But as regards the posts of the inferior Naibs or the sub-assistants, no emolument was attached to them, the income of those officers being the "fees" which, as the report goes, were also shared by their immediate superiors, the Principal Assistants.

"Some alterations and changes were effected in the list of the judges in the year 1782 A.D., when the three Principal Naibs of Bhagalpur, Colgong and Chhaye being dismissed from their offices for causes not particularly known, the vacant offices were duly filled up by three new incumbents. Some changes in the rules regarding the terms of appointment of the judicial officers having set in by the time the fresh appointments were made, the new appointees unlike their predecessors in office, received no monthly allowance but obtained, like the inferior Naibs, "fees" instead. But the Principal Assistant at Gogri, unlike this compeers, continued receiving monthly salaries which was further increased in that year (1782 A.D.). Under the new arrangement the positions of the inferior Naibs remained the same and were not altered.

"With the abolition of the office of the Naib Nazim, the allowance attached to the post of the Principal Assistant at Gogri was also discontinued.

"It should be here noted that there was no fixed rate of the "fees" received by the Kazis. In cases of marriage, the fee ranged from rupee one and annas four to nothing, in funerals from annas four to rupee one and annas four, in witnessing papers rupee one and annas four to even a lesser amount, but in cases of official attendance at festivals they were fed by the parties concerned. We should here remember that the rate mentioned above related to poor Mohammedans only, the richer people paid more.

"The Kazis of Suba Bihar had their seats at Surjigurrah, Selimabad, Monghyr and Kuruckpur. These offices were generally hereditary and remained in the same family. Excepting the official "fees", no salaries or allowances were attached to the posts.

"The post of Kazi at Surjigurrah devolved on Ghulam Mukaddam and his heirs with a rent-free land of forty bighas as an appanage. 'Ali Ashghur was the Kazi of Selimabad and in his absence it was to go to his heirs and successors. Ashghur obtained fifty bighas of rent-free land. Muhammad Murad was the Kazi at Chandanbhuka and to him was allotted one hundred and fifty bighas of land.

"Ghulam Hussain was the District Kazi of Rajmahal, and the office was conferred upon him by Muhammad Reza Khan. Like the Principal Assistant Kazis, Hussain got no salary but official fees. The District Kazi of Rajmahal had under him twenty-five Assistants stationed at the following places, Kankjole, Danapur, Mangalpur, Bahadurpur, Havilly Tandah; Pargana Fallakhana, Bettiah Gopalpur, Shikarpur, Begumabad, Amgachy, Ghiaspur, Parganas Moorain, Akbarpur, Garbound, Hatindah, Sarhurmankour, Maldowar, Munneharee and Sicreegully.

"Kasim Bakhsh, the Kazi of parganas Monghyr and Kuruckpur resided at Kuruckpur. He held 427 bighas of rent-free land—127 bighas at Monghyr and 300 bighas at Kuruckpur."

Civil justice now is administered by the District Judge and six permanent subordinate courts. At times additional courts are also sanctioned. At present three Additional Subordinate Judges also administer civil justice.

Bhagalpur judgeship now comprises of two districts, viz., Bhagalpur and Saharsa. The civil courts surbordinate to the District Judge comprise of one permanent court and two additional courts of Subordinate Judges at Bhagalpur and two permanent courts of Munsifs at Banka. Besides there are two additional courts of District and Sessions Judges at Sadar Bhagalpur.

The District Judge has powers to try suits and hear appeals but generally suits except of special nature are not tried by him. Recently his appellate powers in the civil side has been raised to less than Rs. 10,000. He is also vested with some special powers, viz., (1) Claim Officer in respect of cases of minor Railway Accidents, (2) the District Judge is the single member of Motor Accidents Claim Tribunal for the purpose of adjudicating upon the claims for compensation in respect of motor accidents, (3) the District Judge has powers to try cases under the Companies Act, 1956, (4) the District Judge has been empowered to hear appeals against the decisions of the Claim Officers under section 16 of the Bihar

Land Reforms Act, 1950 in respect of the districts of Bhagalpur and Saharsa.

Besides civil powers, the District Judge has the powers of Sessions Judge. Since the introduction of the scheme of separation of executive and judicial functions in this district and in the district of Saharsa from 1st July 1957 he is also vested with the powers of a Magistrate first class and also as an Additional District Magistrate. He is empowered to inspect all the criminal courts and offices in the two districts except those of the District Magistrates.

Under section 76 of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act (Bihar Act VII of 1948) the District Judge has powers at all times to inspect the proceedings and records of Gram Kutchery and benches thereof.

The permanent courts of Sub-Judges at Bhagalpur are vested with the powers of a S. C. C. judge to try suits up to the value of Rs. 750. The Subordinate Judges have also the powers to hear civil appeals against the decisions of Munsifs. They also exercise the powers of revising authority of voters list under the Peoples Representative Representation Act, 1951. The permanent court of a Sub-Judge at Bhagalpur is also vested with the powers of a Special Judge to try corruption cases under sections 161, 165, etc., of Indian Penal Code.

The Munsifs have been exercising the powers to try suits on the original side up to the value of Rs. 4,000 and the powers of a S. C. C. Judge up to the value of Rs. 250. According to the recent amendment of Bengal, Assam and Agra Civil Courts Act the ordinary powers of all the Munsifs in this Judgeship have been raised to try suits up to the value of Rs. 5,000 and their powers of S. C. C. Judge has been raised to Rs. 300.

The Registrar system was first introduced in this district in the year 1950 on temporary basis, which was made permanent with effect from March, 1958. A Munsif of sufficient experience is always appointed to this post and the system has been working successfully in this judgeship. No suit or cases are, however, tried by the Registrar. The Registrar is really to look after the day to day administration, and work as a link between the litigants and the courts. He is to help the District Judge in his administration of the departments. The Registrar is also the Judge in-charge of Nazarat, Accounts, Forms and Stationery, Record Room and Copying Departments.

Since after the separation scheme the Judicial and Honorary Judicial Magistrates have come under the administrative control of the District and Sessions Judge but provision for their staff, court rooms, furniture, law books, forms and stationery is made by the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate deputes bench clerks for the court of the Judicial Magistrates. Copies relating to

the courts of Judicial and Honorary Judicial Magistrates are also prepared in the Collectorate's Copying Department.

According to the directions of the High Court a Vigilance committee was formed at Bhagalpur Sadar with the object of checking corruption in the offices of the courts. It consists of the District Judge as its Chairman and ten members. The Registrar, Civil Court is the *ex-officio* Secretary. The members include four persons from the Bar, two from the Ministerial Officers and three from the public.

The two tables of civil suits and cases are given below. Table no. 1 will show the total number of civil suits and cases instituted under different heads yearwise from 1950 to 1960 and Table no. 2 will show the details of civil suits, cases and appeals under different heads yearwise from 1950 to 1960.

TABLE NO. 1.

CIVIL SUITS AND CASES.

Year.	Total number instituted.									
	Title suits.	Money suits.	Rent suits.	S.C.C. suits.	Miscellaneous Judicial cases.	Execution cases.	Title appeals.	Money appeals.	Rent appeals.	Miscel-laneous appeals.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1950	630	645	4,536	843	1,314	3,572	124	42	37	118
1951	673	688	4,480	1,103	1,167	3,739	92	25	50	77
1952	620	703	5,983	1,178	1,090	2,933	138	41	73	102
1953	460	764	5,935	1,109	1,157	2,959	174	40	37	92
1954	378	774	6,368	1,150	1,122	3,035	114	48	29	87
1955	440	742	5,193	2,384	1,271	3,782	95	43	9	82
1956	527	736	2,386	1,761	1,670	4,526	115	51	23	81
1957	454	630	1,651	2,529	1,380	4,291	115	41	15	100
1958	515	583	1,083	1,423	1,330	4,506	163	79	1	99
1959	605	570	318	1,048	1,326	3,499	135	36	7	81
1960	690	539	39	1,272	1,449	3,317	122	44	4	84

TABLE NO. 2

CIVIL SUITS, CASES AND APPEALS.

Year.	Civil suits.				Civil regular appeals including rent appeals.				Rent appeals.			
	Last pending.	Instituted.	Total.	Disposed of.	Last pending.	Instituted.	Total.	Disposed of.	Last pending.	Instituted.	Total.	Disposed of.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1950 ..	3,171	6,654	9,825	6,512	203	203	406	234	30	37	67	57
1951 ..	3,408	6,944	10,352	6,521	176	167	345	214	10	50	60	49
1952 ..	3,972	8,484	12,456	8,191	131	247	378	206	11	73	84	43
1953 ..	4,342	8,268	12,610	9,523	175	248	423	253	41	37	78	79
1954 ..	3,283	8,670	11,953	8,569	173	191	364	186	9	29	38	17
1955 ..	3,563	8,759	12,322	8,836	186	147	333	213	17	9	26	19
1956 ..	3,618	5,410	9,028	6,633	120	189	309	210	7	23	30	23
1957 ..	2,538	5,244	7,882	6,054	99	171	270	168	7	15	22	16
1958 ..	1,884	4,608	6,492	4,957	106	243	349	201	6	1	7	7
1959 ..	1,684	2,541	4,225	2,898	151	178	329	162	..	7	7	2
1960 ..	1,412	2,540	6,952	2,327	171	170	341	126	5	4	9	5

Year.		Miscellaneous appeals.				Miscellaneous cases.				Execution cases.			
		Last pending.	Insti-tuted.	Total.	Disposed of.	Last pending.	Insti-tuted	Total.	Disposed of.	Last pending.	Ins-tituted.	Total.	Disposed of.
1		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1950	..	34	118	152	60	579	1,314	1,893	1,347	2,927	3,572	6,499	3,932
1951	..	66	77	143	111	558	1,187	1,745	1,235	2,604	3,739	6,343	3,580
1952	..	33	103	136	61	531	1,090	1,621	1,155	2,794	2,933	5,727	3,173
1953	..	55	92	147	114	478	1,197	1,675	1,257	2,573	2,959	5,532	2,964
1954	..	35	87	122	83	398	1,122	1,520	1,061	2,597	3,035	5,632	2,768
1955	..	39	62	121	89	483	1,271	1,754	1,154	2,904	3,382	6,286	3,012
1956	..	34	81	115	82	509	1,670	2,179	1,323	3,330	4,526	7,856	3,486
1957	..	31	100	131	101	607	1,380	1,987	1,558	4,411	4,291	8,702	4,360
1958	..	32	99	131	97	463	1,330	1,793	1,441	4,456	4,506	8,962	5,201
1959	..	34	81	115	52	393	1,326	1,719	1,236	3,932	3,499	7,431	5,194
1960	..	64	84	148	92	501	1,449	1,950	1,189	2,302	3,317	4,619	2,883

PANCHAYAT ADALATS

The details of the working of Gram Panchayats will be found in the chapter Local Self-Government. It may, however, be mentioned here that the Gram Panchayats were established to cut down litigation, expedite the disposal of the cases cheaply at the villages and to bring about as many compromises as possible. Lawyers are not allowed and the judges consist of the co-villagers who are commissioned to bring about as many compromises as possible. But according to recent amendment, lawyers are allowed in certain circumstances. The Bihar Panchayat Raj Amendment and Validating Act, 1959, Section 71 runs as follows :—

> "No legal practitioner or person declared or known to the Gram Kutchery to be a tout shall appear, plead or act on behalf of any party in any suit or case before the benches thereof. Provided that a person who is arrested shall have the right to consult and to be *defended by a legal practitioner of his choice.*"

It was thought that the witnesses would not perjure themselves at their villages and that the cases in the courts of the stipendiary magistrates will go down. In practice, however, this has not been fulfilled. On the other hand it has been found that the elections of the Mukhiya, members of the Panch and the Sarpanch are always preceded or followed by tension.

The Gram Kutchery, the judiciary of the Gram Panchayat, is headed by the Sarpanch who is elected by adult suffrage. He is vested with the powers of a third class Magistrate. He has certain emergency powers in case of apprehension of breach of the peace (vide section 64 of Gram Panchayat Act). He is also vested with civil powers to dispose of petty suits. He can try both civil and criminal cases of simple nature. In trial of cases he is assisted by a panel of panches consisting of five panches including himself—one panch each nominated by the contestants and two other panches selected by him. They all derive their powers under a Statutory Act. *Gram Sevak*, the paid employee of the Gram Panchayat, acts as a bench clerk. So far as the administration of justice is concerned, these courts are under the general supervision of the District Judge and the Munsif of competent jurisdiction in respect of civil cases and the Subdivisional Officer in respect of criminal cases. The following statement gives the statistics of the working of the Gram Kutcheries from 1954-55 to 1959-60.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE POSITION OF CASES AND SUITS TRIED BY GRAM KUTCHERIES IN THE DISTRICT OF BHAGALPUR FROM 1954-55 TO 1959-60.

Name of the year.	Number of notified Gram Panchayats.	Number of Gram Kutcheries	Number of cases and suits instituted.		Number of cases and suits disposed of.		Number of cases and suits compromised.	
			Cases.	Suits.	Cases.	Suits.	Cases.	Suits.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1954-55	339	207	2,464	620	573	213	1,364 (55.3%)	284 (45.7%)
1955-56	365	365	8,315	741	2,920	303	4,398 (52.9%)	336 (45.3%)
1956-57	365	365	4,335	938	462	466	2,825 (65.2%)	393 (41.9%)
1957-58	365	365	4,181	898	3,399	685	1,974 (47%)	260 (30%)
1958-59	365	365	2,591	551	1,955	421	1,194 (45%)	164 (30%)
1959-60	373	365	2,600	481	899	222	1,570 (60.7%)	229 (47.6%)

The statement of disposal of cases that has been quoted shows that quite a large percentage of criminal cases and civil suits has been compromised every year. The percentage calculation has been shown within brackets in the columns 8 and 9. The percentage of compromises in civil suits is, however, not as encouraging as in criminal cases. The highest level in civil suits was at 47.6 per cent in 1959-60 while the highest percentage in criminal cases was 65.2 per cent in 1956-57. The percentage of compromises of criminal cases and civil suits in 1959-60 was 60.1 and 47.6 respectively.

From the statistics it also appears that the criminal cases and civil suits both are declining from 1958-59.

Legal Profession and Bar Association

The legal profession consists of Barristers, Advocates, Pleaders and Mukhtears. At present there is no Barrister in the district of Bhagalpur. Bhagalpur judgeship comprises of both Bhagalpur and Saharsa districts. Lawyers from Bhagalpur frequently visit the mofussil courts in Bhagalpur and other districts.

Out of the lawyers practising in Bhagalpur one hundred and eighty-five are members of Bhagalpur Bar Library. There are thirty-eight Advocates, one hundred and eighty-three Pleaders and forty Mukhtears at Bhagalpur. The number of lawyers at Banka is twenty-nine out of whom twenty-one are Pleaders and eight are Mukhtears.

The number of Mukhtears in the district of Bhagalpur is on the decline as Mukhtearship examination has been abolished and no fresh Mukhtears are being recruited. They are normally entitled to appear before the Magistrates only.

The Bar Association and Mukhtear Association at the headquarters and at the subdivisional headquarters of Banka have their own building and library. These Associations look after the interest of the members and encourage a dignified and helpful relationship with the Bench. The State Government have also appointed a separate class of Police Officers who are known as District Prosecutors and Assistant District Prosecutors. They conduct criminal cases on behalf of the State in Magisterial Courts.

Bhagalpur has produced quite a large number of brilliant members of the legal profession on both the criminal and civil sides. The members of Bar Association have maintained a rich tradition of acumen, independence and integrity combined with a sense of co-operation with the courts. Some members of Bhagalpur Bar have been recruited to the Bench both as District Judges and

High Court Judges. The legal profession has supplied the leadership in society and politics. One of them Raja Shiva Chandra Banerjee was a great benefactor of the public and his charity is still remembered in the State. Probably he is the only lawyer who was given the title of Raja in British India. Another member of the Bar was Deep Narain Singh who endowed his extensive property in trust for public good. The lawyers of Bhagalpur have been in the forefront to found and endow schools, colleges, libraries and other public institutions. Some of them had closely associated themselves with the Freedom Movement in various stages. The Bhagalpur Bar Association has a Legal Aid Committee. This Committee is functioning since 1954. The aim is to give free legal aid to the poor and needy. The members of this Committee defend the accused in sessions cases free of charge after getting information from the trying court in case the accused is too poor to defend his case.

CHAPTER XI

Local Self-Government

Outside municipal areas, the administration of local affairs is vested in District Board and in Local Boards subordinate to the District Board which has been constituted for the subdivision of Banka.

The District Board is responsible for maintenance of District Board roads including bridges and culverts, dak and inspection bungalows, rest houses and roadside lands and properties, maintenance and superintendence of public schools up to a certain standard, public health and sanitation including water supply, charitable dispensaries, veterinary hospitals and dispensaries, etc. The Local Board under the general supervision of the District Board is responsible for these items within its jurisdiction.

The provision of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act III of 1885 had been extended to the different districts of Bihar. Prior to the extension of the Act there was a Road Cess Committee which used to look after some of the functions which a District Board normally discharges. The District Magistrate or the Collector, more or less, was the main authority to run the Road Cess Committee although he had others to help him. With the enactment of Bengal Local Self-Government Act III, ideas of Local Self-Government were carried to the public at large.

As will be shown later, a portion of the duty of the District Board has now been taken away by the State Government particularly for education and public health. It is unfortunate that for various reasons indicated later, the District Board had to be taken over by the State Government and now there is a Special Officer who is running the District Board in place of the elected Executives of the Board. The rapid extension of the Gram Panchayats has also considerably encroached upon duties and obligations of the District and Local Boards.

Municipalities are meant for the urban areas and the different municipalities in the district of Bhagalpur were created in different years. At the moment (1961) the municipality of Bhagalpur is also under the administration of a member of the Bihar Civil Service under the control of the District Magistrate as Bhagalpur Municipality had to be superseded for various reasons indicated later on. Thus it will be seen that the history of Local Self-Government in this important district of Bhagalpur has had a chequered career.

Municipalities

There are two municipalities in the district, viz., Bhagalpur and Colgong.

Bhagalpur Municipality

The Bhagalpur Municipality was established in 1864 under the Bengal Municipal Act with a population of about 50,000. The District Magistrate used to be the *Ex-officio* Chairman of the Municipality and remained as such till 1865. In 1866 there was unanimous election of a Non-official Chairman and the status of the Chairman continued as such till 1889. The first contested election of a Non-official Chairman was held in 1890.

Mr. Byrne in the last Gazetteer of this district (11) mentions...."The population of the municipal area is about 75,000. This includes several truly rural villages, the area which presents unmistakably urban characteristics being very small and practically restricted to the centre of the town. There are 22 members of the Municipal Committee of whom one is an *ex-officio* member, seven are nominated and 14 are elected. Out of the total number of members 19 are non-officials, 18 are natives only four being Europeans."*

There has since been a tremendous change in the jurisdiction and function of Bhagalpur Municipality. In 1960 the area of the municipality was 11.09 square miles. The population of the municipality according to 1951 Census was 1,14,530 whereas according to the provisional figure of 1961 Census the population is 1,43,944.

In the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) it is mentioned that there were six wards within the municipality with 25 municipal commissioners. In 1955 there were nine wards with forty municipal commissioners out of which thirty-two were elected and eight were nominated. The municipal office was located in a rented house near the Sandy's compound. In 1907, the municipal office building was constructed in the Court compound.

The number of tax-payers in 1959-60 was 21,037 representing 18.1 per cent of the population residing in the municipal area.

Before introduction of electric lights there were 517 kerosene oil lamps in the town. In 1930, electric lights were introduced only on some main roads and about 230 electric lights were provided. In 1942 at the time of black-out all kerosene oil lamps were removed. Prior to 1955 there were 720 electric lights and 50 kerosene oil lamps. In 1961 there are 52 kerosene oil lamps and 1,493 electric lights in the municipal area.

As mentioned in the Old District Gazetteer this municipality took up the primary education of the children of Bhagalpur town and started a few U.P. and L.P. schools in different parts of the

*Extract from Old District Gazetteer, Bhagalpur (Chapter—Local Self-Government), Page—151.

town. The number of schools were few at the beginning and there was practically no arrangement for girl's education. The number of schools gradually increased every year and they reached the number of about 50 at the end of 1938.

Free and compulsory primary education was introduced in this municipality on 2nd October 1939 and the number of students taking their education in schools were about 2,000 only and the number of existing staff were about 150. There were a few girl students in a few of the schools but there were no female teachers in any school.

After 1939, there has been a considerable increase in the number of schools both for boys and girls, and in 1961 the number of students, boys and girls has come to more than five thousand and the number of teachers has increased to about 400 out of which the number of female teachers is about 100.

The Board maintains 58 Upper Primary and 64 Lower Primary schools and meets an expenditure of about Rs. 2½ lakhs over these schools annually out of which Rs. 2,07,447 have been given as annual grant from State Government during 1959-60.

The population of Bhagalpur town has been increasing. According to 1941 Census the population of Bhagalpur municipal area was 93,000 and the whole area was divided into six wards under three Sanitary Inspectors for purpose of administration with six ward *munshis* and six *jamadars*. The Health Officer was the head of Public Health Administration and remained as such till 1951. When the post of Health Officer was provincialised in 1951 with gradual increase of population and development of area, three more wards were formed in that year. As the population according to 1951 Census was 1,14,530 the work of Public Health Department increased to a great extent and due to enormous duties and development of areas of working of Public Health Department conservancy work and for better control, one post of Chief Sanitary Inspector was created in April, 1960.

The municipality was superseded in 1955, the details of which have been discussed later on. Prior to supersession i.e., before 1955 the work of conservancy and sanitation was conducted mostly by bullock carts but in 1955 they were replaced by mechanised vehicles. Some bullock carts were maintained in 1960 for lanes and bye-lanes where the mechanised vehicles cannot reach for removal of rubbish and garbage.

Disposal of night-soil is cent per cent done by mechanised vehicles.

The compost work was started in 1953. There is a Special Sanitary Inspector incharge of compost. Some quantities of night-soil and rubbish are consumed in compost making at Kolakoli

Compost ground. The compost is disposed of at the rate of Rs. 3 per ton.

The head of the Public Health Department is a Government Health Officer to assist and advise the Executive of the Municipal Board and has direct control of Public Health Department of the Municipality. He has a staff under him. There is a conservancy workshop at Tatarpur to look to the Municipal vehicles. A staff of 614 persons is maintained for the sanitation work of the town (1961).

Collection of refuse and garbage from small lanes and bye-lanes is done by means of wheel barrows and they are deposited at the main roads to be removed by mechanised vehicles for final disposal to a dumping ground in the low-lying areas. Two hundred and seventy-nine night-soil cleaners clean 11,605 private and public latrines daily.

The night-soil lorries carry the night-soil to Dattbat trenching ground and at Kolakoli compost ground. These are the only two places where night-soil is disposed of.

There are 11 mechanised vehicles for collection and disposal of night-soil and refuse, 2 lorries and 9 tractors but most of them are in a breakdown condition and efforts are being made to replace them.

Since the last few years, mass inoculation is done from April to October every year in the Municipal area as a precautionary measure against the outbreak of cholera. When epidemic actually breaks out, services of all the Inspectors and Vaccinators are utilised in mass inoculation work and extra disinfectors are employed for disinfection of wells and affected houses always to the extent and nature of the epidemic. In November, 1955 there was an outbreak of cholera epidemic. Since then no epidemic has occurred up-till-now. During 1960 in October and November a few cases of diarrhoea and vomitting took place, but intensive measures were taken and the situation was brought under control quickly.

There has been no major epidemic of small-pox in municipal area for the last 5 years. Every year from December to March, i. e. for 4 months, 19 vaccinators are appointed by Government for mass vaccination and efforts are made to vaccinate as many persons as possible. Not a single case of plague has been reported in the municipal area since the last 30 years.

In 1959 a few cases of Jaundice broke out in an epidemic form. Measures were taken and the situation was brought under control within a short period.

There is one permanent midwife to attend to the delivery cases at the residence of rate-payers.

Case of birth is reported by the *Munshis* and the permanent vaccinators. Reports of deaths are registered at Barari Burning *Ghat* and at Telhakothi burning *ghat* in rainy season.

Qualified Sanitary Inspectors and Health Inspectors are authorised to take food samples from the vendors of food stuff and send them for examination to the Government Analyst at Patna. After receiving report from the Analyst, cases are filed against those whose samples are found adulterated. The figures for 1959-60 are given below:—

Total no. of sample drawn.	No. of sample sent to Government Analyst.	No. of sample found adulterated.	No. of prosecution launched.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of cases pending.
536	549	102	86	45	28

The house construction plans are submitted to the municipality by the rate-payers after obtaining approval of the Town Planning Officer. The municipal staff verifies the plan on the proposed site and approval is given when the building bye-laws of the municipality are fulfilled. Four qualified Sanitary Inspectors are empowered to verify the plans from the sanitary point of view.

Before 1930 there were few stone metalled roads which were generally in a very bad condition, full of ditches and cuts due to the bullock-cart traffic which was very heavy in this town. In 1936 the municipality was superseded for two years. During the period all the then existing 10.8 miles *pucca* roads were thoroughly repaired and painted with coal tar and ½" sand over it. It was the first occasion that the roads were painted with road tar in this town due to which the condition of roads improved. The total mileage of roads maintained by the Board is 105 miles out of which 35 miles are metalled, 33 miles unmetalled, 4 miles roads paved with cement concrete, 3 miles of stone sets, 22 miles of black topped roads and 8 miles of other qualities.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF BHAGALPUR MUNICIPALITY FROM 1951-52 TO 1960-61 IS GIVEN BELOW.

INCOME.

Year.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Income from—										
1. Rates and Taxes ..	5,12,919	5,34,831	6,38,362	5,65,600	6,36,532	7,07,924	7,18,116	5,58,435	8,00,079	6,12,870
2. Realisation under special Acts.	50,672	55,268	54,036	53,031	59,699	63,916	59,952	77,802	62,831	56,957
3. Revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation.	1,00,661	1,12,103	1,17,915	1,20,418	1,24,695	1,28,138	98,348	2,68,272	1,22,071	1,21,300
4. Grants and contribution	2,09,887	1,80,401	2,95,957	1,34.888	2,01,800	10,73,772	1,95,198	2,77,456	4,52,217	2,88,110
5. Miscellaneous ..	42.928	16,057	16,00,267	1,04,449	14,676	19,725	40,239	13,965	31,368	14,177
6. Extraordinary and Debt	4,31,303	5,56,654	10,61,057	6,43.610	4,76,541	12,30,549	2,44,015	4,94,177	6,67,542	4,43,111
TOTAL ..	13,48,370	14,57,324	21,82,596	16,21,916	15,43,943	32,24,024	13,55,868	16,90,108	21,36,821	17,35,525

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF BHAGALPUR MUNICIPALITY FROM 1951-52 TO 1960-61 IS GIVEN BELOW.

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Head of Expenditure—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. General administration and collection charges.	92,361	1,18,879	1,11,271	1,06,317	1,85,866	94,598	1,00,541	1,13,502	1,23,547	1,06,511
2. Public safety ..	21,281	20,693	24,158	19,119	21,702	23,089	19,518	27,436	27,094	30,671
3. Public Health and Convenience.	6,12,626	6,88.098	13,94,385	12,51,919	7,41,466	4,80,569	7,64,076	7,76,694	2,18,498	9,28,631
4. Public Instruction ..	1,18,082	1,41,920	1,41,979	1,29,710	1,69,885	1,60,907	1,85,341	1,95,621	2,33,597	2,31,317
5. Contribution for general purposes.	2,168	3,080	4,237	4,845	2,805	2,861	2,209	1,100	2,400	4,500
6. Miscellaneous ..	44,276	75,627	56,435	25,718	51,452	1,10,133	1,33,585	56,087	1,34,553	5,30,957
7. Extraordinary and Debt	8,23,829	2,86,756	3,55,353	4,10,844	3,47,065	3,37,986	4,80,081	3,29,344	4,02,790	3,82,898
TOTAL ..	17,14,653	13,14,943	20,96,768	19,48,472	14,60,239	29,78,876	16,85,433	15,70,784	20,42,479	16,89,485

Waterworks of Bhagalpur Municipality

The origin and its past development.—Supply of the piped water, for Bhagalpur town, has been in existence since 1887 and is known as the oldest waterworks under a municipality in this province. Its source of supply was tapped from river Ganga having its intake at Barari (the north-eastern end of the town) where the flow has been found perennial and its firm bank is on the highest elevation of the town.

Since then it is rendering a continuous service in spite of many difficulties.

Its original daily supply was 3,30,000 gallons for a population of about 66,000 persons with a capital cost of Rs. 3,05,000 and the cost was obtained through contributions by leading and generous Zamindar families of those days of Bihar and Bengal including a substantial Government grant. The waterworks may be described as a personal achievement of Raja Shib Chandra Banerjee (the then Vice-Chairman of the municipality).

It started with a masonry for drawing raw water from the river into a deep collecting well below the pump house where *steam* engine (James Watt) and pump, boiler, etc., were installed for both pumpings (unfiltered and filtered) and water treatment through settling tanks and 4 slow sand filters. The pumping operations were then done alternatively first collecting river water and then pumping into distribution of the town by the same pump.

There was also a service reservoir on high ground level outside waterworks compound having a capacity of over one lac gallons for balancing the town supply on distribution. The said old installation is still in existence for the jail water-supply service with certain modifications.

In 1896 further extension of water-supply was made for Champanagar and Nathnagar at an additional cost of Rs. 35,600 and the total supply was thus enhanced to over five lac gallons per day.

But shortly afterwards serious trouble was also experienced in meeting this increased demand of water during summer months due to the prevalence of intake trouble at Barari Head Works caused by the sudden change of the course of the river Ganga and the situation thus became more acute in 1904. A small committee was then appointed by the Government to examine this problem and a recommendation was made for further increase in the raw water-supply arrangement by new installation of 3 nos. diesel sets and construction of one 24 feet collecting well just on river bank close to the aforesaid pump house and two units Patersons Mech. Filters at head works to raise the daily output to one million gallons of filtered water for the town.

From 1918 to 1922 the question of improving the intake supply was examined by many experts but nothing could be done to bring about a permanent remedy.

Sir Henry Wheeler, the then Governor of Bihar, had visited Bhagalpur in 1923 and suggested for the formation of a committee of officials to examine the problem facing the water-supply and to submit recommendation for its further improvement. In compliance with the recommendation of the said committee Mr. Plomer, the then Superintending Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, submitted alternative schemes for obtaining a two million gallons daily supply from a number of deep tube-wells and a trial boring on southern part of Bhagalpur town was found to be fairly satisfactory.

But, in 1926, Mr. S. E. Platt who was then Superintending Engineer, on further examination of the above suggestion considered it unsafe to rely on a group of tube-wells in one area for the whole supply and suggested an alternative scheme of four groups of tube-wells in four different areas of the town. But the result of the experimental boring was again found disappointing.

In view of the impossibility of obtaining the whole of the requisite supply of one million gallons per day from tube-wells, a modified scheme was again prepared by Public Health Engineering Department, Bihar for obtaining 80 per cent of supply from river and the remaining from two fairly successful tube-wells of Mirjanhat with an estimated cost of Rs. 5,11,600 which was approved by the municipality and sanctioned by Government during the year 1930. The old diesel engine of 1908 was replaced by two electric-driven vertical spindle pumps and the same were again shifted into new dry well with certain modifications in 1938.

The work of the sanctioned reorganisation scheme was taken up from the year 1930 but speedy progress was made actually from 1936 and completed in 1938.

With the rapid expansion of the town from the year 1945 the reorganisation of waterworks as completed in 1938 was found inadequate in maintaining a fair supply to the town. A forecast estimate as short-term scheme was then drawn up by the late B.R. Bose, the then Engineer and Superintendent, Waterworks in 1948 who had actually dedicated his whole career for the improvement of water-supply in the town of Bhagalpur. This was further modified by Sri K.R. Bhide, the then Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Bihar, and money was sanctioned by Government. The work was taken up from 1951 and was completed in 1956 and there was an addition of one million gallons of increased supply from 3 tube-wells of different areas of the town and the arrangement has fairly met the water scarcity to the western and southern-eastern parts of the town.

But the water scarcity on the central part and *bazar* areas remained still to be improved and under the direction of

Sri Bhide, a fresh water-supply scheme was again prepared at a total cost of Rs. 24,67,200 which finally received Government sanction and approval during early 1957 and the said scheme is now being carried out as supplementary re-organisation scheme for putting the Bhagalpur water supply on a sound footing.

The present distribution of water-supply.—The present water-supply for distribution to Bhagalpur town is arranged into 3 different zones.

Eastern and central zones.—For ward no. 1, part of 2, 3 and part of 4 and 5—The major source of supply to the aforesaid area is from head works Barari (having river source) and partly supplemented by a tube-well from Lajpat Park particularly for improving the supply toward Sujaganj *Bazar* area.

Total quantity of supply as now maintained is nearly two million gallons daily including supply for two jails for over 3 lac gallons per day.

The supply of this zone is to be further augmented with a R.C.C. water tower at Teachers' Training College compound (Central point) of one lac gallons capacity and finally to a quantity of 4 million gallons per day to town.

Western zone.—It consists of part of wards nos. 5, 6 and 7. Main supply is from 3 tube-wells of Nathnagar and Champanagar with one R.C.C. water tower of one lac gallons at Karnagarh for balancing the daily supply of the area. The water-supply to Constable Training School, T.N.B. College and other big educational areas is maintained from this zone having its total supply of nearly 5 million gallons daily.

Southern zone.—It consists of wards 8 and 9, part of wards 2 and 4. The supplying source is from two tube-wells of Ishakchak and two of the Mirjanhat area.

The total supply of this area is also nearly 5 million gallons while further improvement of water-supply of this area is under augmentation through additional tube-well (Ishakchak tube-well no. 3) which is not successful.

It is known that the central and eastern zones are under fast development due to addition of new private holdings and many new Government office buildings and residences. It has within this area two central jails, police buildings, many education buildings including one big Engineering institution besides the congested area of Sujaganj.

Reasons for supersession.—The administration of the municipality had become slack. The inspection note of the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur of September, 1953 revealed a precarious financial position of the municipality due to various commissions, omissions and irregularities. The inspection note disclosed that

most of the municipal commissioners were irregular in attendance, the rules regarding advances were followed more in breach than observance, provident fund accounts were in a muddle and collection of taxes was far from satisfactory. The inspection note suggested to the executives of the municipality to retrench the superfluous staff and reduce the scales of pay and allowances of the employees of the municipality. This suggestion was not implemented by the municipality.

The inspection notes of the junior Inspector of Local Bodies, Bihar of March, 1955 had also disclosed manifold irregularities. The financial position of the Board was found very alarming. The total assets of the municipality on 1st January 1955 were Rs. 6,39,308 against the liabilities of Rs. 6,19,064. The assets included outstanding taxes amounting to Rs. 5,72,466. It had no free cash balance. It had encroached upon Government grants and loans to the extent of Rs. 1,98,851. The total receipt of the municipality excluding Government grants and loans during 1954-55 was about Rs. 7,42,000 against the total expenditure to the tune of Rs. 8,40,000 over the establishment, petrol, electric charges bills and miscellaneous expenditure excluding the expenditure over drains, roads, etc. Thus the municipality had a net deficit of Rs. one lac during 1954-55. The inspection note of the Junior Inspector of Local Bodies further revealed that a total sum of Rs. 16,716 on account of interest of loans had not been paid by the Board ever since the receipt of the loans, large sums of money had been advanced to the employees in the face of the bad financial position of the municipality. A total sum of Rs.52,162 out of the recurring education grants had been spent to meet other expenses of the municipality. A sum of Rs. 96,045 out of the non-recurring grant meant for P.W. development and construction of *Harijan* quarters had been encroached upon by the municipality. A total sum of Rs. 1,03,984 representing deductions and contributions on account of provident fund of employees had not been deposited by the municipality. It had further been mentioned by the Junior Inspector of Local Bodies that the percentage of collection of arrear taxes had deteriorated from year to year. The total arrears which stood on the 31st March, 1954 amounted to Rs. 4,22,683 which included a total sum of Rs. 5,379 due from the municipal commissioners themselves.

The position with regard to the arrears of the Bhagalpur Electric Supply Co., Ltd., had also drawn the attention to Government. The total unpaid debt of the municipality to the Company up to the end of the 30th April, 1955, on account of electric charges was Rs 87,720 . The Electric Supply Co. had more than once threatened the municipality to discontinue supply of the energy if their arrear bills are not paid up. The Municipality was superseded in 1955 and a Special Officer from the rank of the Bihar Civil Service was appointed to hold charge of the municipality. This arrangement is still continuing.

Colgong Municipality

Colgong is a small town on the bank of the river Ganga 19 miles east of Bhagalpur town. The Colgong Municipality was established in 1869 under Bihar and Orissa Municipal Act (Act VII of 1922). Regarding Colgong Municipality Byrne in the last Gazetteer of Bhagalpur mentioned that the population of the town was 5,860 in 1901. The Municipal Committee consisted of 11 members, one of whom was an official. All of them were natives of India and were nominated by Government as the elective system had not been introduced in this municipality. The population of the town is 9,879 according to the provisional figure of 1961 Census and its area ¾th sq. mile.

The municipality is divided into 8 wards and there are 10 Commissioners out of whom 8 are elected and 2 nominated. The wards have been divided for collection as well as for election purposes. A few years back there were 8 wards for collection and only four wards for election. But in 1946, the plural-seated wards have been converted into single-seated wards under the Government of Bihar, Local Self-Government Department notification no. 1128-L. S.-G., dated the 18th February 1946. The number of tax-payers in 1959-60 was 1,351 representing 13.6 per cent of the population residing in the municipal area.

The main sources of income are from holding and latrine taxes. The average annual income during seven years ending 1959-60 was Rs. 85,855 and the expenditure was Rs. 83,529 as against Rs. 3,751 and Rs. 2,622 in the quinquennium ending March, 1908. The main sources of income and expenditure of this municipality are the same as in Bhagalpur Municipality.

The statement showing the receipts and expenditure from 1955-56 to 1959-60 is given below:—

Income (In rupees).

Items.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Municipal Taxes ..	19,449	20,983	18,863	26,119	25,063	22,654
2. Municipal Registration and other fees.	6,116	5,914	5,571	7,422	6,456	6,791
3. Revenue derived from municipal property & powers apart from taxes.	1,508	1,731	2,206	15,055	2,005	1,359
4. Grants and contribution	18,177	20,266	15,792	24,516	1,36,557	1,34,462
5. Miscellaneous	497	1,193	2,008	1,599	2,206	2,042
6. Extraordinary debts ..	10,464	10,806	4,555	9,426	1,26,227	1,11,629
Total ..	56,211	60,892	49,015	84,139	2,98,536	2,78,931

Expenditure (In rupees).

Items.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. General Administration.	6,242	5,074	5,712	6,885	6,910	6,568
2. Public safety ..	2,463	2,969	3,633	3,045	3,253	3,700
3. Public Health ..	14,242	14,355	16,114	17,905	2,18,362	2,30,876
4. Medical ..	1,873	460	110	395	183	..
5. Public convenience	14,816	9,123	7,875	7,906	5,525	3,360
6. Miscellaneous ..	2,950	3,538	4,280	3,912	4,833	4,501
7. Extraordinary and Debt.	5,868	9,440	4,265	16,261	9,868	16,282
8. Public Instruction	7,996	9,141	11,309	13,407	14,057	16,460
TOTAL ..	56,449	54,106	53,298	69,715	2,62,982	2,83,742

This municipality maintains eight upper primary and eleven lower primary schools and spends Rs. 14,059 annually over them.

The annual expenditure over sanitation is nearly Rs. 19,571. The Board used to maintain one Assistant Health Officer but due to provincialisation of the Colgong Dispensary, this post has been abolished and the Health Officer of Bhagalpur Municipality supervises the work of Public Health of Colgong too. At present the municipality maintains a fully equipped conservancy gang with a conservancy *Jamadar* under a qualified Health Inspector. The service of a vaccinator is also maintained for six months during the year in the rainy season. The roads maintained by the Board extend over 12 miles and are maintained at an average annual cost of Rs. 3,253. Most of these roads are metalled and black topped roads. The roads have been provided with 91 kerosene lamps. The condition of most of the roads is not too good.

As regards water-supply it may be mentioned that the Board maintains one tube-well and 3 hydrants with the help of railway branch in Colgong.

The Municipality for adequate supply of piped drinking water has undertaken a scheme during the Second Five-Year Plan at the estimated cost of Rs. 4,10,000, being half grant from Government and half interest bearing loan. The water tank having the capacity of 100,000 gallons is constructed on the Sahkumari hill, situated in the vicinity of the town. The work is nearing completion and the supply of water is in trial stage.

TOWN PLANNING.

The District has five towns viz., Bhagalpur, Colgong, Banka, Sultanganj and Naugachia. The population of these towns according

to the Census figures of 1951 and the provisional census figure of 1961 are given below :—

	1961.	1951.
Bhagalpur town	1,43,944	1,14,530
Colgong	9,879	7,515
Banka	12,514	Treated as town for the first time in 1961 Census.
Sultanganj	11,823	
Naugachhia	8,707	

From the figures of the population, as well as the importance of Bhagalpur as the headquarters of an administrative division and a University, this town has to be given a high priority in the matter of improvement and development. A Divisional Town Planning Office has been functioning at Bhagalpur since July, 1958, and the establishment of an Improvement Trust is under the consideration of the State Government. The problem of town planning in the other towns of the district has not yet become acute. However, the Municipality or the Notified Area Committee of the other towns have to control their oblique growth. Unless the incidence of town planning is kept in view from now, the problem after some decades will become acute.

The topographical and historical importance of Bhagalpur have been indicated elsewhere. In the early British period while the river provided the principal line of communication, Bhagalpur was administratively more important. Darjeeling and Tirhut at that time also came under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Bhagalpur Division. When Darjeeling went to Bengal, Bhagalpur Division shrank in area and the opening of railway routes put the town in the railway map of India and the importance of the water route declined. Bhagalpur is also an important centre of regional trade and commerce notably in foodgrains. cloth and other manufactured goods including silk and fruits. The recent establishment of a University (1961) indicates an expansion of educational institutions. An industrial estate is likely to be set up soon and there is bound to be more of industrialisation in the near future.

Regarding internal communication it may be mentioned that in the absence of a road-*cum*-railway bridge on Ganga connecting Bhagalpur, no lines of regional communication enter the town from the north of the Ganga river. A meter gauge from Bararighat section of the N.E. Railway along with a steamer ferry connects the town with the northern parts of Bhagalpur Division. Although quite archaic in condition, this *ghat* line is a very important link with North Bihar as the nearest Ganga bridge with railway facility at Mokamah is about 80 miles away. A Public Works Department road running along the bank of this river and the Eastern Railway connects the town with Patna. This road passes through the

busiest parts of Bhagalpur town, *viz*., the main market, railway area and Nathnagar. The traffic problem becomes particularly acute and reaches a dangerous level near the main railway station due to a very large volume of pedestrians and different types of vehicular traffic including a large flow of cycle rickshaws driven by *mufassil* villagers with very little knowledge of traffic rules and a large number of buses. It is also due to the junction of a number of market roads and the Public Works Department road from Dumka near Bhagalpur Railway Station. The road from Dumka enters the town through the business centres in the town from the south and crosses the railway lines by means of an overbridge. Due to lack of space, the overbridge road joins the main Public Works Department road through two main curved approaches. Apart from the loop line of the Eastern Railway a broad gauge railway line of the Eastern Railway links Bhagalpur with Mandar hill about forty miles to the south. About the same distance to the south-west of the Mandar hill lies Deoghar, a subdivisional town of Santhal Parganas district and one of the most important seats of *Shiva* worship in India attracting hundreds of visitors everyday. The daily bus services to Deoghar from Bhagalpur are usually congested.

Within the town itself, the grid of principal roads is formed by the Cleveland road and the main Public Works Department road, both running east and west intersected by a number of roads running north and south. The Public Works Department road to Dumka and the Mirjanhat road and Amarpur road intersected by the Ghoradih road and other minor roads constitute the links of the town area lying between the loop line and the Mandar hill line with the main town area lying between the Ganga river and the loop line.

There is huge passenger traffic, both incoming and outgoing by rail and road. Bhagalpur has got a very good position in goods traffic through railways. The goods from Bhagalpur are served to its vast hinterland and the grains from these places are transported to Bhagalpur by road traffic. The majority of vehicles engaged are motor and trucks. Bullock carts are largely engaged for the transport of goods on *kutcha* roads and in the neighbourhood of the town.

Bhagalpur is the junction of the N.E. Railway and the Eastern Railway and there is a branch railway line to Mandar hill. A very large floating population is brought to the town by railways as well, Besides (a very heavy goods traffic) Nathnagar and Bhagalpur have got railway goods sheds serving the entire town. Hence much of the traffic swing around the railway station, courts, educational institutions, hospital, markets, etc., within the town.

The railway divides the township into two parts. The road towards south takes off from the station-road at Sujaganj *Chowk*

and crosses the railway line by an overbridge and runs towards the south. This road connects Bhagalpur with several important places right up to Calcutta.

As regards road traffic it may be mentioned that road from west enters Bhagalpur town at Champanagar after crossing the *Jamunia Dhar* by a narrow road bridge. Then it bifurcates into two routes near Champanagar Police Outpost. The road running to east runs parallel to the railway line and passes through the busy area of Nathnagar market producing a bottleneck to the traffic. After that, it touches the T.N.B. and other colleges and finally enters the main market area near the main railway station. Beyond the station area, the road again divides into two, one turning towards south and the other running towards east. Then, it passes through the main town, touches the shopping centre, cinema halls, hospital area, court area, Police line and then finally meets the Cleveland road at Tilkamanjhi *Chowk*. From there one road runs to the Bararighat and the other runs straight. It touches the Central and Camp Jails, landing ground and M.M.P. Barracks.

Within the town there are three main parallel roads that carry the bulk of the traffic of the southern part of the town. The small width of these roads and the road towards Nathnagar does not allow a free flow of traffic, wheeled or pedestrian. There is lack of parking places and cars and bullock carts are allowed to be parked almost anywhere.There are no separate tracks for the pedestrians or the cyclists. Cycle-rickshaws are allowed to overtake one another and often two or three rows of cycle-rickshaws move parallel at the same time.

As regards Mirjanhat area it may be mentioned that it forms the main grain centre of the whole of Bhagalpur town. Big warehouses are located in this area which naturally attracts the bullock cart traffic. Mirjanhat road is very narrow and bottlenecks are frequent due to bullock carts, waiting for loading and unloading. There is no service lane for loading and unloading purpose. The bullock carts after unloading do not clear up immediately the road but wait for the next trip and the road itself creates another problem. The empty *rickshaws* move about for custom adding to the traffic particularly because there are very few rickshaw stands in the town.

The table below shows the average number of vehicles on the heavily trafficked roads during the peak hours :—

	Vehicles.
1. Patal Babu road (from Railway station to Tower clock) from 5-30 A.M. to 6-30 P.M.	1,002
2. Church road (from Tower clock to Kachehari) from 10-00 A.M. to 11-00 A.M.	889
3. D.N. Singh road (from Sujaganj *chowk* to Mansoorganj *chowk*) from 5-30 P.M. to 6-30 P.M.	759
4. Lower Nathnagar road (from Tatarpur *chowk* to T.N.B. College) from 5-00 P.M. to 6-00 P.M.	753
5. Dr. Rajendra Prasad road (from Kotwali to Tower clock) from 5-30 P.M. to 6-30 P.M.	658
6. M.P. Dwivedi road (from Station to Nayabazar *chowk*) from 5-30 P.M. to 6-30 P.M.	548

The area to the north of Bhagalpur Railway Station comprising of the main market, residential and recreational areas is the heaviest traffic zone. In the case of Nathnagar Station and Sujaganj crossing the majority of the traffic runs towards east to west with a left hand turning at the overbridge. At Khalifabagh *chowk* the majority of the traffic from the south and west take a turn to the east on Dr. Rajendra Prasad road to catch the Church road and Patal Babu road at the Tower clock crossing. The road intersections are unfortunately so badly designed and laid that in any Town Planning Scheme they have hardly any scope of development and may have to be replaced with proper road junctions.

In absence of a planned development, defined residential areas on the principles of neighbourhood planning do not exist in the town. More than 75 per cent of the buildings in the western and southern parts of the town come under the accepted definition of huts and sub-standard buildings. Leaving aside some local pockets like the T.N.B. College these areas also accommodate the slum areas of the town. There are slum areas in Mundichak, Ishakchak, Mirjanhat, Tatarpur and south part of Nathnagar.

Parks, open spaces, playgrounds and stands for private and public vehicles are necessary in every town. At present, Bhagalpur cannot be said to have adequate facilities of this type. There is no promenade on the bank of the Ganga. The Sandy's compound to the east of criminal courts and Lajpat Park at Mashakchak are the two open spaces with no gardens. Some of the tanks like Rani *Talao* and Shahkund tank could be renovated and their banks be utilised for small gardens. A number of old and dried up trees have been felled in Sandy's compound which is a *khas mahal* area without much of replenishment. A portion of the Sandy's compound is utilised for football fields.

Some of the educational institutions like T.N.B. College, Sundarbati Mahila College, T.N.B. Collegiate School, Zila School, Marwari *Pathshala*, C. M. S. School and the Police Training School at Nathnagar have playgrounds. There are some open spaces on Wace road and Tilkamanjhi which may be taken over for this purpose. It may also be possible to find some open space near the bank of the Ganga by acquisition.

Any town planner will have to think of this problem as well as for space which will be needed soon for the expansion of the District's Sadar Hospital, Head Post and Telegraph Office and the Court Buildings.

It will also be necessary to sponsor other fish and vegetable markets and shopping centres and reorientation of the existing ones. The present fish and vegetable market near the main railway station is extremely cramped and shockingly filthy.

The industrial areas of Bhagalpur town also need a complete re-planning because they are located at different places. All industries, cotton mills, oil mills may have to be brought under a particular place so that they would cease to be a great menace to the health and cleanliness of the town. The cotton mills, flour mills, oil mills and the engineering works situated in the heart of the town have become a great nuisance to the residents. The Town Planning Department of Bhagalpur will have to select a new industrial area at least for the siting of the new industrial units and cinema houses.

It is observed that because of uncontrolled growth of population and spatial expansion in a most haphazard manner, Bhagalpur has become too large to have any real community life. There is almost planned physical segregation of various income groups, where the residents of one house do not have any interest in the welfare of the next household. This is not desirable for a community which already suffers from caste segregation. The new planning will have to be so designed as to embody the vital concepts of neighbourhood by making it possible for face to face contacts. As regards new developed areas, a mention may be made of Nayatola and Tilkamanjhi where mostly lawyers and middle class people reside. There has been addition of new houses in Khanjarpur, Adampur and Nathnagar areas. But here also houses have been allowed to be built without much of forethought.

Another important problem which the planner will have to solve is the problem of housing for the small-scale producers who contribute a major portion of the production in the city. These industries are now being carried on in old houses, verandahs and at every available space. The small-scale producers will have to be provided with small industrial estates at the outskirts with their residences nearby. For instance, bakeries, dry cleaning units, radio repairing workshops will have to be housed in shopping centres. Motor garages and workshops, trunk manufacture, etc., should be grouped together in another part of the shopping centre. There should not be any future growth of industries without proper residential quarters of the workers within a reasonable distance.

The above suggestions for the improvement of the town in respect of any elaborate planning by the Town Planning Department will involve Government in heavy expenditure. However, the Town Planning Department has proposed some improvements for Bhagalpur town.

A Master Plan for the town of Bhagalpur is nearing completion and aims at ameliorating the effects of past haphazard development, eradicating slum areas, recreational and cultural facilities and the future development of the town in accordance with the modern town planning principles of zoning and residential neighbourhoods. The Plan divides the town in five major parts, viz., the western

area comprising of Champanagar and Nathnagar including the T.N.B. College and the University area, the central area lying to the east of it and bounded more or less by the river Ganga on the north.

The Master Plan also provides for the improvement of slum areas in Mundichak, Ishakchak, Mirjanhat, Tatarpur, Champanagar and other areas of the town. Housing schemes are also proposed to be taken up in the western and south-eastern areas of the town. Provision has also been made for general improvement and beautification of areas around the Jain temples, the Burhanath temple, the Mansadevi temple, the Shahkund mound and the Rani *Talao*, etc. A botanical garden is sought to be developed in conjunction with the Sundarban garden and also a zoological garden in the southern part of the town. A cattle colony would also be established and apart from the central area containing the Sadar hospital each of the four remaining areas proposed in the plan would be provided with adequate health centres. A number of open spaces including children and other parks are proposed in the plan as far as possible in waste lands (ditches, etc.) which would be improved and utilised for this purpose.

Apart from the above schemes another important proposal in the field of expansion of educational facilities at all levels concerns the establishment of a college for boys for general education in the eastern part of the town and similar girls' college within the university area in the western area of the town.

Other important aspects of the town deal with the alignment of the existing Bararighat railway line within the town, the provision of adequate water-supply, sewerage and provision for certain important schemes from the Central Government, such as, the establishment of All-India Radio, etc.

Development of umland both as a green belt for the supply of vegetables and the site of satellite towns will also have to be tackled. The umlands of Bhagalpur are now mainly agricultural lands or mango orchards. The location of an aerodrome to the east of the main town at a distance of three miles is a bar to urbanisation in that area but a couple of miles beyond the aerodrome lies Sabour. There are, however, useful sites where satellite towns or townships could be sited besides the development of Sabour as a much bigger town. At present Sabour is mainly a Government colony consisting of agricultural college, research institute and other ancillary sections. There is an excellent but a small botanical garden. The villages round-about Sabour will have to provide the main site for development of Sabour as a feeder town to Bhagalpur. The other areas for the development of a satellite town or an extension of Bhagalpur city will be in continuation of Nathnagar to the west of Bhagalpur. The implementation of any Master Plan

for Bhagalpur would, however, not be possible in its major aspects without the creation of any Improvement Trust to take up the development schemes in a co-ordinated manner and to control the so far oblique growth of the town in general.

DISTRICT BOARD.

It was planned by the British Government that through the working of the District Board the people will learn their first lesson of Local Self-Government. In pursuance of this policy the Bengal Local Self-Government Act was passed in 1885 and its provisions were extended to the district of Bhagalpur. The earliest history of the Board follows the same pattern as in the District Boards of the other districts in Bihar. A prominent feature of the earlier Board was the importance of the road cess which was the main source of income. Prior to the formation of the District Board under the Act there was a Road Cess Committee and it was the obligation of the District Magistrate to see to the maintenance of the roads, culverts, bridges, public sanitation, etc.

The District Board of Bhagalpur was constituted in April, 1887 under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885. The Board formerly covered the then existing four subdivisions, viz., Sadar, Banka, Madhipura and Supaul. The District Magistrate was the first Chairman of the District Board. The District Officer's care at that early stage of the institution had its good points. With the growth of ideas and experience it was felt necessary to remove unnecessary restrictions regarding taxation, the budget and the sanction of work, to bring the franchise as wide as possible and to replace the nominated Chairman by an elected non-official Chairman. There has been a healthy gradual expansion of the ideas regarding Local Self-Government.

The Board originally consisted of thirty-one members of whom six were *ex-officio* members, in addition ten were nominated by Government and fifteen were elected.

The District Magistrate used to be *ex-officio* Chairman while the Vice-Chairman used to be elected from amongst the nominated members. The franchise was at first restricted to property and other special qualifications. The institution at that stage could not be described as broad based.

In 1919, the Board got the right of electing a non-official Chairman from amongst the nominated members. The late Shri Surya Prasad was the first non-official Chairman (1919—22).

In 1922, the Bengal Local Self-Government Act was amended. In accordance with the amended Act the Board was reconstituted in 1924 with twenty-seven elected and nine nominated members.

The number of elected members from each subdivision was eight from Sadar, six from Supaul, seven from Madhipura and six from Banka subdivision. Supaul and Madhipura subdivisions have now gone to Saharsa district.

The Board elected its Chairman for the first time in 1924 from amongst the elected members. Shri Kailash Behari Lall was the first elected Chairman. In the thirties the Bhagalpur district branch of the Indian National Congress came into prominence as a political body and the Congress people started taking keen interest in district politics. A number of Congressmen contested the election and were elected to the Board and had a somewhat predominating influence for quite a long time. The executives of the Board (the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman) had tendered their resignation from their respective offices and also from their membership on 30th October 1941 in pursuance of the Congress mandate. The other twenty-seven members had also tendered their resignation. A Chairman was appointed by the Government in 1941. The Chairman remained in the office from 3rd December 1941 to 17th August 1948. The last election of the Board was held in 1948 when it was captured by Congressmen. There were no general elections after 1948 and the same Board as constituted in 1948 had continued till the Board was vested in Government in 1958. This long rule of one and the same Board had its repercussions on the administration.

It is unfortunate that the level of efficiency of the administration of the District Board slowly deteriorated. It was almost on the same pattern as in the other District Boards in Bihar. The Board did not function well and there was allegations of maladministration on various counts.

The State Government had to take note of the trends of the maladministration of the District Boards. An Ordinance No. VI of 1958 was promulgated by the Governor of Bihar. This Ordinance was passed under Clause I of Article 213 of the Constitution of India. By notification no. 8001-L.S.-G., dated the 12th September 1958, it was proclaimed that "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (i) of section 2 of Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958 (Bihar Ordinance no. VI of 1958), the Governor of Bihar is pleased to direct that all the members of the District Boards and Local Boards including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of such Boards constituted under the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act of 1885 (Bengal Act III of 1885) shall vacate their respective offices with effect from the 15th September 1958." In pursuance of this Ordinance all the District Boards of the State including Bhagalpur District Board was taken over by the Government. The reasons for this step are

given in the Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Bill, 1958, as follows :—

"The District Board and Local Boards constituted under the provisions of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act of 1885 have outlived their utility under the completely changed circumstances. On attainment of independence, there have been developments on a very large scale in the various fields of activities, viz., Agriculture, Industry, Co-operatives, Gram Panchayats, etc. These developments call for a complete reorientation in the conception and constitution of District Boards and Local Boards so that these Bodies could fulfil their role effectively in the changed circumstances. This is not possible unless the existing law is carefully examined in the light of these developments and amended suitably to meet the present needs of society.

"The Balvantrai Mehta Committee on the community development and National Extension Service have made a number of recommendations specially with regard to future set up of District Boards. These recommendations require detailed examination and careful consideration before the State Government could come to a definite decision in the matter which will obviously take some considerable time. Besides, some of the sister States in India are considering legislation regarding the constitution and powers of these Local Bodies and it is necessary to examine the provisions of these laws and their actual working for sometime before we embark on a comprehensive amendment of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act.

"It is, therefore, clear that the new set up of District Boards undoubtedly require comprehensive amendment of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act, 1885. It was accordingly decided by the State Government to take over temporarily for three years, the control and management of District Boards and Local Boards, pending consideration of their future set up. The Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958, has been promulgated to give effect to this decision.

"The Bill seeks to convert an Ordinance into an Act of the State Legislature as the ordinance will cease to have effect after six weeks from the commencement of the present session of the State Legislature."

The District Magistrate of Bhagalpur took over the charge of the District Board on 15th September, 1958. On the 15th September, 1959 the District Magistrate handed over the Board to the Special Officer belonging to the State Civil Service, deputed by the Government to carry out the administration of the District Board on behalf of the Government.

With the assumption of the office by the Special Officer, all powers vested in the District Magistrate were transferred to the former. The District Board under the new system continues to have the same powers and functions and the Special Officer inherits them from the previous Board. He functions both under the Local Self-Government Department of the Government and the District Magistrate of Bhagalpur.

Finance.

The main source of income of the District Board is the road cess, originally payable by the landlords under the Cess Act at the rate of annas two for every rupee of the land revenue by the tenant and the equal amount by the Government. The road cess used to be paid along with the land revenue and then the road cess was transferred to the Board's funds in the Government Treasury after the deduction of the cost of realisation. After passing the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, the Government stepped into the shoes of the ex-landlords and the road cess is now paid by the Government. The average annual income from the cess comes to about Rs. 4,23,468. The other sources of income of the Board are pounds and ferries. It maintains 42 pounds and 4 *ghats*. The average income from ferries in the quenquennium 1952-53 to 1958-59 was Rs. 38,375.

The annual average revenue from cart taxes (1952-53 to 1959-60) comes to Rs. 13,907 and that from Board's property and other miscellaneous items amounts to Rs. 1,88,409. The Government grants on average amount to Rs. 16,58,621 per annum. The total income of the Board in 1959-60 was Rs. 14,75,337 as against Rs. 24,43,840. Government grants under different heads particularly towards education, medical, miscellaneous and civil works have increased tremendously.

Expenditure.

The main items of expenditure are education, medical and public health, veterinary and civil works. The average annual expenditure from District Fund under these heads (on the basis of 1959-60) is Rs. 1,54,613. The expenditure under General Establishment, Provident Fund and printing comes to Rs. 57,938. Miscellaneous Expenditure amounts to Rs. 24,546 making a total overall expenditure of Rs. 82,484. The deficit is usually met from loan from deposits under other heads and debt heads.

Education.

The expenditure over education by Board has now come down because the State Government are now financing the scheme including

the normal education schemes of the Boards. Contribution for education is only Rs. 24,43,840 in 1959-60 out of the annual expenditure of Rs. 1,01,905. This branch is now administered by an officer of Government designated as District Superintendent of Education. There was a Planning Committee consisting of nine members with District Magistrate as the *ex-officio* Chairman but at present the Planning Committee has been dissolved.

At present the Board has 81 Middle Schools out of which 53 are aided Middle Schools and 28 unaided Middle Schools, 174 Upper Primary Schools and 665 Lower Primary Schools. In 1953-54 the District Education Fund was separated and was placed in the hands of the District Superintendent of Education, consequently the Board ceased to have any control over the educational matters.

Public Health.

To prevent and combat epidemics the District Board maintains a staff headed by the District Medical Officer of Health. There are also two Assistant Health Officers, one at each subdivisional headquarters, 7 Sanitary Inspectors, one for every three *thanas*, 19 Health Inspectors and 46 Vaccinators. Sanitation and other arrangements for the convenience of the pilgrims at the *melas* are also made by the Board. This Board also maintains 105 wells to provide drinking water in the rural areas. The Board maintains 11 allopathic dispensaries, 4 *ayurvedic*, one homeopathic and four veterinary dispensaries.

Civil Works.

The District Board maintains 31 miles of metalled roads, 9 miles of *kutcha* roads and 120 miles of village roads. The details of the road may be seen in the chapter "Communications". It also maintains 19 inspection bungalows, 4 rest houses and one dak bungalow.

Incidence of taxation.

Byrne in the last Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) mentions that the incidence of taxation per head of population was 1 anna 2 pies and the incidence of income per head of population for the year was 2 annas 4 pies. The incidence of taxation in 1958-59 per head of population was 0.45 nP. only and the incidence of income per head of population for the year was 0.62 nP. only while in 1959-60 the taxation was 0.41 nP. only and the income was 0.81 nP. only.

The statement below shows the income and expenditure of Board from the year 1949-50 to 1959-60.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF

INCOME

—	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Provincial rate	5,08,280	5,42,001	4,41,546	3,79,522	4,09,051	3,92,955
2. Interest ..	14,622	13,074	10,156	6,962	11,402	6,296
3. Police ..	20	..	364	..	64	..
4. Education ..	6,77,869	6,40,067	5,49,433	6,38,681	7,17,254	..
5. Medical ..	59,381	46,747	63,847	87,594	1,11,203	1,12,925
6. Scientific and other minor departments.	1,130	991	3,058	597	97	2,679
7. Miscellaneous	2,66,813	2,00,071	2,46,770	4,07,338	3,78,842	1,04,549
8. Civil Works ..	5,11,800	10,85,243	3,56,910	33,510	84,821	88,097
9. Total income..	20,39,915	25,28,194	16,72,084	15,54,399	17,12,674	7,07,501
10. Deposits and Advances.	1,89,894	90,804	1,71,068	1.46,132	2,37,637	2,58,387
11. Loan from Government.	..	2,00,000	..	..	1,00,000	2,00,000
12. Opening balance	2.46,068	8,12.812	18,59,799	12,96,253	6,02,462	7,05,956

BHAGALPUR DISTRICT BOARD FROM 1949-50 TO 1960-61.

SCHEDULE.

1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59 up to 15th September 1958.	1958-59 from 16th September to 31st March 1959.	1959-60.	1960-61.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2,91,101	5,70,307	5,06,421	1,29,021	3,87,069	5,24,330	3,21,688
1,431	1,279	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,11,541	1,07,408	73,998	16,181	56,221	74,987	79,659
69	16	5,352	..	31	13	68
60,658	61,766	60,770	22,396	67,287	54,526	1,20,324
31.181	1,25,125	1,02,395	23,005	91,588	3,83,716	2,04,413
4,95,981	8,65,901	7,48,936	1,90,603	6,04,190	10,37,573	7,26,153
59,672	8,23,908	1,56,746	16,963	53,489	1,00,090	76,668
..	..	..	..	1,905	12,544	42,713
2.23,951	1,04,643	3,26,968	..	3,09,071	3,25,131	6,58,202

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF BHAGALPUR

EXPENDITURE

—	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. General Administration.	64,319	67,376	74,987	84,537	83,120	84,479
2. Police pound charges.	9	652	1,768	2,137	1,255	835
3. Education ..	8,00,834	5,86,292	10,35,075	8,51,988	10,19,853	2,136
4. (a) Public Health sanitation charges.	55,635	68,571	95,300	1,07,755	1,31,683	1,39,163
(b) Water-supply.	31,702	13,642	29,728	79,025	9,067	3,056
5. Medical and other charges.	97,111	1,03,662	1,30,866	1,17,125	1,48,042	1,50,364
6. Veterinary charges.	20,520	19,787	49,873	21,126	22,175	17,455
7. Provident fund	10,686	10,256	25,395	20,343	13,559	18,670
8. Stationery and printing.	3,118	7,444	4,073	5,122	3,483	2,613
9. Miscellaneous unforeseen charges.	7,569	5,143	85,998	78,746	2,779	13,153
10. Civil Works ..	4,35,925	6,27,562	7,67,534	7,28,688	5,53,866	2,52,417
11. Total ..	15,27,428	15,10,387	23,00,597	20,96,592	19,88,882	6,84,361
12. Deposits and Advances.	1,35,637	2,61,624	1,06,101	97,730	1,57,935	9,63,532
13. Total expenditure.	16,63,065	17,72,011	24,06,698	21,94,322	21,46,817	16,47,893
14. Closing balance	8,12,812	18,59,799	12,96,253	8,02,462	7,05,956	2,23,961

DISTRICT BOARD FROM 1949-50 TO 1960-61.

SCHEDULE.

1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59 up to 15th September 1958.	1958-59 from 16th September to 31st March 1959.	1959-60.	1960-61.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
78,513	91,713	86,934	50,524	25,107	46,568	51,274
292	246	..	..	59	390	..
..	7,91,532	5,948	..	1,02,041	1,01,905	30,576
1,34,476	1,19,659	1,38,579	54,172	71,004	1,42,518	1,48,831
1,006	2,202	1,328	50	980	..	1,000
1,71,150	1,44,226	1,56,078	63,784	79,558	1,34,515	98,208
17,035	18,366	18,898	3,616	15,674	19,849	15,152
13,933	15,596	16,138	6,808	11.704	9,140	11,173
2,710	3,735	4,425	164	2,143	2,230	2,496
6,586	2,450	65,868	1,312	30,535	24,546	23,277
1,86,068	1,59,456	2,83,692	1,05,017	1,78,212	2,39,523	2,56,620
6,11,789	13,46,181	7,77,888	2,85,447	5.17,217	7,21,184	6,27,609
63,172	1,11,303	1,55,691	31,203	19,223	95,874	35,286
6,74,961	14,57,484	9,33,579	3,16,650	5,36,440	7,21,260	6,62,895
1,04,643	3,36,968	3,09,071	..	3,25,131	6,56,202	8,40,841

LOCAL BOARDS.

The Local Boards were constituted at Sadar and Banka sub-divisions under the control of the District Board.

In pursuance of Government notification no. 8001-L.S.-G., dated 12th September 1958, all the District Board's executives and members ceased to function. Accordingly the Bhagalpur District Board and Local Boards at Sadar and Banka have been taken over by the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur, with effect from September, 1958 and the arrangement continues.

The Local Boards get allotment of funds from the District Board and have in their charge maintenance of village roads, upkeep of pounds, water-supply and village sanitation. The powers of the Local Boards have been much reduced due to the creation of the District Education Fund under the Superintendent of Education.

UNION COMMITTEE.

A few years back there were eight Union Committees at Banka, Sultanganj, Ratanpur, Datt-Batt, Gangamir, Tilakpur, Chickram and Naugachhia in the District Board. Three of them, namely, Banka, Sultanganj and Naugachhia have been converted into Notified Area Committee under the Municipal Act and the rest Union Committees have been abolished. With the expansion of Gram Panchayats the Union Committees were found outdated.

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEES.

The function and responsibilities of the Notified Area Committees are mostly the same as that of the Municipalities. These Committees have recently been constituted and do not appear to have made much headway. Their finances are poor and they have not yet been able to tackle their problems squarely so far particularly because the townships are growing very fast. The Notified Area Committee of Naugachhia was constituted in October, 1956. The Subdivisional Officer, Sadar, is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee. Its area is five square miles only.

The Sultanganj Notified Area Committee was constituted in September, 1957. It has also got a committee with fourteen members and the Subdivisional Officer, Sadar, is the *ex-officio* Chairman. Its area is four square miles.

The Banka Notified Area Committee was established in September, 1957. It has got a committee with fourteen members. The Subdivisional Officer, Banka, is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee. Its area is 7.5 square miles.

GRAM PANCHAYAT.

Gram Panchayat has been recognised as a vital institution for the ever-widening activities of a welfare State towards rural reconstruction.

The institution of the Local Self-Government in the shape of a village assembly, where the local problems and the needs for the sanitation, communication, judiciary, and the police were discussed and served, was an old institution of India. Village administration was once more or less entrusted to the village headmen (commonly known as *Gopa* in the Hindu period and *Muquaddam* in the Muslim period). But this rural institution fell into abeyance amidst disorder and confusion that followed in the wake of the early British rule in the country.

A highly centralised Government at the top was brought in by the British administrators. The decentralisation went up to the district level and the hands of the District Magistrate were far too strengthened. The District Magistrate with the help of the Police ran the administration and there was no vestige of rule left in the village as an active working unit save and except, the village *chaukidar* who was the link and the symbol of the highly centralised Police State at the top.

It had been realized early that this set-up of the administration was not conducive to the good of the country and should be changed. In his Presidential address at the Session of the Indian National Congress in 1899 Mr. R. C. Dutt, the great economist, scholar and administrator had extolled the Panchayaty system and indicated what was needed to be introduced in our administration. Mr. R. C. Dutt had observed—

"VILLAGE UNIONS—

I will begin with villages—because, as I have already said, in India the villager represents the nation. In village administration there is no touch between the rulers and the people, the only link between the administrators and the people in civil administration is the hated link of the Police. It is a misfortune and an administrative mistake that our District Officers should have so little direct touch with the villagers and their natural leaders and should work so entirely through the Police. If there is distress in the land the Police makes enquiries, if there is cholera epidemic in the land the Police distributes cholera pills; if a village tank has given way or the village water-supply dried up the Police reports and organises help; if a tree has been blown down and obstructs a village path (I have seen instances of this myself), the villagers

are powerless to help themselves until the Police comes and removes the obstruction. It seems to be a mockery that the very country which was the first to organise village communities, village Panchayats, and village Self-Government, and cherished these institutions for 3,000 years, should be rendered so absolutely helpless and should be ruled through the undesirable agency of the Police. The mistake has been discovered and Village Unions have been formed or are in the course of formation in most provinces in India. Make these Village Unions real centres of village administration in so far as is consistent with good Government. Parcel out each subdivision into twenty or thirty Village Unions, entrust the Union Committees with the charge of village roads, village tanks, village drainage, village education, and village hospitals, and send over to them all petty civil and criminal cases, not for judicial disposal, but for amicable settlement. A great deal of expensive litigation and bad feeling in villages can thus be stopped, a great deal of useful work can thus be done, and what is more, the natural leaders of the village population will thus come in touch with the Subdivisional and District Administrators, and will form the agents of village administration in so far as they are fit to take that position. An unsympathetic system of rule through the Police will thus be replaced by a rule with the co-operation of the people themselves."

But the words of the seasoned administrators like late Mr. R.C. Dutt, I.C.S., were held to be a vision and the British bureaucracy took a long time to realise the necessity of decentralisation of the administrative machinery.

In 1920, the Village Administrative Act was passed to revive the old institution of the village assembly but it had not made much headway.

Gram Panchayats are very old institutions in this country and there was a time when disputes regarding land, domestic life and even complicated civil and criminal disputes used to be referred to the Gram Panchayats. The Panchayat meant a sort of committee of five or more of the village elders who would sit in an open place and both the parties would give their versions before the *Panch* and the *Panch* would take necessary evidence and come to a quick decision. With the spread of the litigation and the availability of the courts the villagers took their more important criminal and civil disputes to the courts and the *Panches* were pushed to the position of occasionally meeting for domestic or social differences.

Hence with the advent of the independence in 1947, however, a very important step was taken to extend the benefits of the Local Self-Government right to the village under the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947. The Act was put into operation in Bhagalpur from 1949. Under this Act Village Panchayats were established for a village or a group of villages. Generally a Panchayat is formed in an area which has a total population of 2,000 persons. Normally the members of villages falling within the radius of two miles are grouped together under one Panchayat.

While the Panchayats today need little introduction their concepts have largely changed from what they were when the Gram Panchayat Raj Scheme was launched in 1947. To start with, it was imagined that a Village Panchayat will look to the needs of a village and amicably settle petty disputes with the help of a small band of honorary selfless workers devoting a part of their time to the society for such an objective.

Section 77 of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, provides that for every Gram Panchayat the Government may appoint a *Gram Sewak* who shall be in charge of the office of the Gram Panchayat and be responsible for drawing out the plans and schemes and the work to be executed. For this the *Gram Sewaks* get a short training for a period of six months.

Section 26 of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act provides for the organisation of the Village Volunteer Forces in each village under the command of the Chief Officer. A number of Chief Officers have been trained in the different training centres. The training period is of three months only. All able-bodied males of the village between the age-group of 18 to 30 become the members of the forces. In any emergency the Village Volunteer Forces are to protect the villagers from dacoits, fire, epidemics, etc. Till 1960, 833 members of the force have been trained.

The Gram Panchayat is headed by a *Mukhiya* who is assisted by an executive committee consisting of 13 to 15 members elected on the basis of adult franchise. The executive committee controls the annual budget and acts as a check on the *Mukhiya*. The *Mukhiya's* post has become a coveted one in the village and it seldom goes uncontested.

There is a panel of 15 *panches* or members which has a head known as the *Sarpanch*. The chief job of the *Sarpanch* is to preside over the Gram *Cutchery* meetings and to try cases with the help of two *panches* who are selected by parties. Thus the *Sarpanch* is the judiciary head and *Mukhiya* executive head of the Gram Panchayat.

The statement below shows the number of Gram Panchayats scattered all through the district in 1959-60:—

1.	Villages covered	1,123
2.	Population covered	7,46,789
3.	Number of unofficial Panchayat formed	Nil
4.	Number of Panchayats recommended for notification.. ..	2
5.	Number of Notified Gram Panchayats	373

FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

The Gram Panchayats have been empowered to raise taxes such as property tax and professional tax. The professional tax is levied on any kind of business conducted within the jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat. There is compulsory labour-tax payable by all able-bodied males between the age-group of 18—50. The minimum tax payable by every tax-payer is 12 units for 48 hours of manual labour per annum. Cash payment in lieu of labour-tax is permissible in case of invalids or for those who are incapable for manual labour. The proceeds of the tax are mainly utilised for the village uplift.

The other source of income of the Gram Panchayat is the grant sanctioned by the Government. An initial grant of Rs. 50 to each Gram Panchayat has been sanctioned by the Government. A sum of Rs. 18,650 has been distributed to 373 Gram Panchayats till 1959-60. Forty-nine Gram Panchayats have been empowered to collect rent on commission basis.

SANITATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

Sanitation, Public Health and First-aid are the obligatory duties of Gram Panchayats. In Bhagalpur, there has been little work done by the Panchayats in this direction although it is reported that cleaning of village paths, lanes and public places has been made regular feature once a week on every Sunday. About 1,008 bore-holes, 2,399 trenches and other latrines as well as 2,694 soakage pits are reported to have been constructed up to 1959-60. Besides disinfection of 2,14,215 wells, 2,816 new surface wells were reported to have been sunk and 241 old surface wells repaired in 1959-60. About 2,76,023 persons were vaccinated. These vaccinations and inoculations are done by *Gram Sewaks* of the respective localities. Blind Relief Camps out of money sanctioned by Gram Panchayat Department, Bihar, have been held in 1959-60, two at Sadar subdivision and seven at Banka subdivision. Almost 275 patients suffering from various diseases were treated in that year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORK.

The Gram Panchayats have been engaged in constructing and repairing embankments and *bundhs*, sinking wells and the

construction and repair of the village roads. A number of such schemes have been executed by the Gram Panchayats. Half of the expenses in all such matters is met by the State Government.

Year.	Number of works sanctioned and executed.	Total estimated cost in rupees including 50 per cent contributed by Panchayats.	Government grant sanctioned in rupees.
1954-55	77	1,66,703	83,351
1955-56	51	1,23,530	61,775
1956-57	14	96,830	48,415
1957-58	60	4.881.62	22,500
1958-59	63	8,055	81,281
1959-60	47	27,817.37	27,077.66
1960-61	53	..	29,104.80

EDUCATION.

Night schools have been organised in villages by the Panchayats to drive out mass illiteracy. The Gram Panchayats have formed adult education centres where mostly old people come and attend classes. A teacher in each centre has been appointed to teach these villagers in the evenings. Books of general knowledge, agriculture, sanitation and village improvement have been provided in some libraries. The details showing the number of persons benefited, night schools opened and number of schools of which management have been transferred to the Panchayats have been shown in the statement below:—

Year.	Adult education centres.	Education centre (for children).	No of persons benefited.	Basic schools.	Other schools H.E./M.E./U.P./L.P.	No. of libraries run by Gram Panchayats.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1954-55 ..	72	Nil	1,983	N.A.	164	52
1955-56 ..	274	Nil	17,409	25	159	170
1956-57 ..	337	Nil	15,367	31	315	176
1957-58 ..	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1958-59 ..	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1959-60 ..	175	N.A.	7,934	19	97	63

IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATION.

For improvement of village life, communication plays a vital role. In the past, the villages were isolated and village people were insular in outlook due to lack of intercourse with urban life. Gram Panchayats have addressed themselves to the problem by constructing 83 miles of new roads, and repairing 73.7 miles of old roads in 1959-60. Besides, 29 new bridges and culverts were constructed and 21 old bridges and culverts were repaired.

The construction of new roads and repair of old roads were done mainly through voluntary and taxed labour. The Panchayats in Bhagalpur continued to levy labour-tax and the people gave it mostly by offering manual labour for local development works like construction and repair of roads in their villages. Voluntary labour (*Shramdan*) has also been offered in some cases.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Administration of justice is an assignment of the *Gram Cutchery*. The first duty of the Gram Panchayat is to bring about a compromise in a case. Failing, the *Gram Cutchery* takes up the trial and is expected to be a forum for dispensing justice in a cheap, quick and efficient manner. But the *Gram Cutcheries* do not appear to have made much headway in this respect and have yet to qualify themselves for dignity and integrity.

The following statement shows the number of cases tried by Panchayats:—

CRIMINAL.

Year.	Cases filed.	Cases pending from the previous year.	Total.	Compromised.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Dismissed.	Pending.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1956-57	4,335	824	5,159	2,825	187	275	868	969
1957-58	3,567	614	4,181	1,974	393	252	790	762
1958-59	2,193	398	2,591	1,194	124	153	484	636
1959-60	2,600	489	3,089	1,570	81	151	667	620
1960-61	2,053	..	2,053	1,234	..	158	292	369

CIVIL.

Year.	Filed.	Compromised.	Decree.	Dismissed.	Pending.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1956-57 ..	1,069	393	307	159	210
1957-58 ..	898	269	314	102	213
1958-59 ..	551	164	209	48	130
1959-60 ..	621	229	165	57	170
1960-61 ..	339	94	70	27	148

The institution of Gram Panchayat is still in an early stage. When the larger institution of the District Board has recently failed and has to be taken over by the Government, the task of the Gram Panchayat is certainly difficult. But the human material available in smaller units under proper guidance is expected to yield better results. One essential feature is that the Gram Panchayats are to work in smaller units, among their own people and any pitfalls will be more quickly detected and rectified. A fundamental idea of vesting the Gram Panchayats with the judicial powers was that the parties and their witnesses would have a greater urge to come out with the truth, as they were aware that the villagers are in the know of the matter and any incorrect deposition would bring a certain amount of social disapproval. That is why, the Gram Panchayat Courts have better facilities to bring about amicable settlements. They are expected to have a more intense feeling to see that their own money is well spent for their own purposes. The system of paying tax in the shape of voluntary labour is nothing new as decades before through voluntary labour, institutions like grain *golas*, schools and libraries had been built. Unfortunately the urge to render voluntary labour is not so keen now.

An investigation indicates that the Gram Panchayats in many cases are the sole cause of creating faction in the village. Though as a matter of policy and principle the introduction of adult franchise and establishment of Panchayats, Village Councils, Rural Courts add new issues and change the emphasis of older ones but in practice it is not totally so. The kinship rivalries for familiar supremacy and status that take the form of factions along caste lines have been tearing the rural communities. A disturbing feature of the alliance is that on the one hand the villagers tend to promote caste tension and casteism and on the other enable the upper Hindu castes to dominate over the intermediate and lower castes, in spite of their numerical weakness and irrespective of the land reforms, establishment of Village Councils and adult suffrage. Even when apparently the lower Hindu castes control the Village Councils and the Village Courts the upper Hindu castes still want to dominate.

However, these features may be the teething troubles of a great institution. The experiment has just started and there must be such pulls at the first phase due to age-long bad legacy and tradition. The future of the Gram Panchayats should not be dispaired of because of these pulls which are bound to go away.

CHAPTER XII.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Historical Background

The remains of what is claimed to be the Vikramshila University at Pathergatta, 6 miles from Colgong remind us today of a high incidence of education and culture in this district in the past. It is believed that the foundation stone of this University was laid down by Raja Dharampal of Pala dynasty in the 8th century A.D.

During the reign of Turko-Afgan and Moghul rulers, education through the medium of Persian and Urdu was imparted. *Muktabs* for elementary and *Madrasas* for higher learning were established. These *Muktabs* and *Madrasas* were generally attached to mosques. The Maulavis were maintained by the villagers. There were also *Tols* where education through the medium of Sanskrit used to be imparted.

Francis Buchanan has left a somewhat diffusive account of the background of education and culture in Bhagalpur district. His "An Account of the District of Bhagalpur in 1810-11" has been published by the Bihar and Orissa Research Society in 1939. Although he cannot always be relied on as apparently he depended much on hearsay, we may have some picture of the incidence of education and culture from Buchanan's account. He mentions that the *Guru* instructs the boys only in the mere rudiments of writing and arithmetic, by instructing them to form their letters and figures, on a board, with a reed and white ink, made of powdered mica. The boys were afterwards taught by their parents, to write on paper, and to keep accounts.

Buchanan mentions two types of schools: (1) Elementary schools teaching the vernaculars and (2) Indigenous schools of learning where medium of instruction was Sanskrit or Persian and Arabic.

Buchanan particularly refers to two Bengali Brahmins, Ramram Nayayalankar and Radha Charan Vidyavagis and a Maithili Brahmin Nityananda Ojha, who were great scholars and taught grammar, law, *Kavya*, *Smriti*, etc. Mention was also made of one Sambhu Nath Ghosh, a Bengali Kayastha of Champanagar who had deeply studied grammar.

Francis Buchanan mentions regarding dialect and language as follows:—"In by far the greater part of the district the Hindi character and dialect almost universally prevail; except that a few rude tribes still retain languages peculiar to themselves, which appearing to have derived very little from the Sangskrita, may be considered as pure aboriginal Hindu dialect, these tribes having in their appearance nothing of the Chinese nor Tartar race. The Hindi

spoken in the better cultivated parts of the district differs no more from that of Mithila, than is usual in different parts of Puraniya, and the pronunciation is nearly the same. Among the hills and woods the accents vary much, and each tribe, even of those, which have adopted the Hindi dialect, retains many obsolete or strange words, besides an uncouthness of pronunciation, so that many of them are almost totally unintelligible."...................

"In this district those who use the Hindi dialect in common affairs, write the Nagri character; and the highest ranks, even the *Pandits*, both in common discourse and epistolary correspondence on ordinary affairs, employ the language that is commonly spoken, and is intelligible to the vulgar. It is promiscuously called the *Bhasha* or *Desbhasha*, and no books have been composed in it. The compositions which they possess, that are not in pure Sangskrita, are all so mixed with that language, as to be unintelligible to the vulgar ; and this language also is called *Bhasha*. The Ramayan of Tulsidas is the one most used and is much more read than understood............ Among the Brahmans and higher classes are some who understand the meaning, although they cannot read any character. This is the case with all women, who understand the poetical language ; for none of the female sex have been instructed to read. The other books in the poetical language that are in most common use, are *Harischandra Lila*, giving an account of a Raja named Harischandra, the *Bhagwat* of *Lalach* Halwai, mentioned in my account of Puraniya : and the *Rasvihar*, also mentioned in the same account. These three are more easily understood than the Tulasi Dasi, and even the vulgar understand a considerable part of *Harischandra Lila*. On this account probably it is that they are little esteemed."

According to Francis Buchanan there were Persian knowing people in the district who were capable of conducting business more or less perfectly in that language.* According to him the education in zamindars and other proprietors of the land was more or less neglected. He mentions that the *Pandits* of the district study Grammar, *Jyotish* and Law. He also mentions that the Brahmans in the western parts of the district have to themselves the exclusive privileges of acting as astrologers, soothsayers and wisemen.

Regarding medicine, he mentions that "Medicine is in rather a more creditable state than towards the east. About 270 Sakadwipi Brahmans and a few Maithilas practise medicine. They in general know more or less of Sangskrita, and have some books treating on diseases and remedies, and written in that language".

The Record Room of the Commissioner, Bhagalpur Division contains more than a hundred English correspondence volumes.

*Persian was learnt both by the Hindus and Muslims and being the court language to a large extent, a knowledge of Persian was taken as an asset (P.C.R.C.).

Some of the letters throw light on the system of vernacular education that was set on foot by the Government of Bengal in the forties of the last century. They chiefly discuss the primary vernacular education that was then prevalent in the districts of the Revenue Division, Bhagalpur, which at that time comprised Bhagalpur, Dinajpur, Malda, Monghyr, Purnea and Tirhoot districts. Dr. K. K. Basu of Bhagalpur has made some research into the history of vernacular education in mid-nineteenth century in this division. It appears that a Government communique issued by the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal dated the 18th December, 1844 sanctioned the formation of village schools in the several districts of Bihar, Bengal and Cuttack as a pilot experiment. As a preliminary step, Bhagalpur Division was to have 17 schools in its different districts. Bhagalpur was given three schools along with Dinajpur, Monghyr, Purnea and Tirhoot while Malda got two only. The system of education was to be strictly uniform. The Collectors were to visit the schools at least once a year and report on them annually to the Commissioner who was to submit a general report to the Government.

The prominent zamindars and other wealthy private individuals were approached for providing funds and rendering assistance in this matter. The endeavour of the Collector of Bhagalpur to induce the zamindars and merchants to come forward in promoting the measure was attended with very little success. Indeed the whole amount subscribed was Rs. 102, but the greater part of which had been contributed by the *amlahs* of the several Government offices, the difficulties faced in collecting the sum was sufficient evidence of the reluctance with which it was given. This want of funds had prevented anything being done towards erecting school buildings. It was not before April, 1846 that the ground to the east of the Bhagalpur Kotwali was chosen for the site of the school house to be erected there and this land belonged to Madan Thakur who offered it at an annual rent of Rupee one and anna one per bigha. The vernacular school was opened with 16 boys on May 1st, 1846, in a small bungalow temporarily rented at Rs. 5 per month.

Regarding the Government scheme for English and Vernacular education it may be mentioned that it was devised in 1835. In Bihar two educational circles were established—one at Bhagalpur and another in Bihar. The scheme was to introduce a central college with as many Zila Schools as there were districts in the circle. The Zila Schools were to be connected with the college by a system of scholarships, called junior scholarship. The object was to communicate through the means of the English language, superior education in European literature, philosophy and sciences to the greatest number of students that might be found ready to accept it. A Government resolution dated the 20th October, 1844 directed the Council of Education to examine candidates for employment in the public service and to publish their number in order of merit.

In pursuance of the above policy a start was made establishing Zila Schools and a Zila School, namely, the Hill School was established in Bhagalpur. It was so called because it was intended to train Santhals living in the Damin-i-Koh (hill tract) in the Santhal Parganas to serve as Rangers in the district, but the general population was freely admitted to it. Another school was started at Bhagalpur called the Bhagalpur Institution.

Vernacular classes were opened in all the Zila Schools of different districts and a number of vernacular schools were established in each district independently. These were called Hardinge Schools. A system of vernacular scholarships was created to enable the vernacular students to complete their education in Zila Schools.

In 1842 the Council of Education was established for the control of education and the Local Boards and District Committees of Public Instruction were appointed to work under it. The Council had a paid Secretary and for sometime a paid professional Inspector.

The schools were superintended by local committees subject to the control of the general committee. These committees were composed of European and Indian residents who were appointed by Government on the recommendation of the General Committee. The funds of each institution were placed in the hands of a Secretary appointed by the local committee. These consisted of donations, subscriptions and pay for the tuition of the youths. Persons of all religious opinion and castes were admissible. No boy whose age exceeded 8 years was admitted unless he could read correctly and with a good pronunciation the second English Reader of the School Book Society. No boy whose age exceeded 12 years was admitted unless he could read, parse and explain passages in the fifth English Reader of the School Book Society. Instruction was usually given for five hours with an interval of one hour for recreation.

Working and Curriculum

The school hours were from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and the boys were allowed one hour's leisure from 12 A.M. to 1 P.M. and a half holiday on Saturday. The boys were separated into four classes. In the fourth or the lowest class the boys learnt the alphabet: they were taught to form the letters on the ground with a chalk. The third class consisted of boys who could write a little and read tolerably well the primers. The boys of the second class were those who had finished the primers and learnt Arithmetic. The first or the highest class boys read Grammar, Geography and Arithmetic—the four rules of addition, substraction, multiplication and division. They wrote from dictation and could parse words in a sentence.

But this system of education proved unavailing on account of want of assistance and support on the part of the public. The

public hardly appreciated the blessings of education and consequently unwilling to burden themselves with pecuniary charges they could possibly avoid. They were generally opposed to the system of mixing together the sons of respectable and wealthy persons with those of the lower and poorer classes. The upper classes believed that "to teach learning and manners to the low born was to put a sword into the hands of the robber". The services of competent persons who could work as teachers could hardly be procured. Many of the residents seem to have been deterred from sending their children to the schools for fear of interference with their religion through the books which had been obtained at Calcutta. So much was the apathy and the childish prejudices of the people that in some schools where prizes had been given, the people had not construed them as the reward of merit, but had actually left these schools through the fear that such donations were nothing but money that bound them to the institutions. The indigent condition of the lower classes reserved as a handicap to the progress of educational institutions. The higher class still clung to the old court language the knowledge of which was always held as an accomplishment. The knowledge of Nagri, they did not desire to acquire. The lukewarmness of the better classes sprang from the fact that they did not feel the want of public institutions for vernacular education as they could get their children taught at home. As a matter of fact in the rich families a Maulavi or a Munshi who would teach the children and keep accounts was an accepted feature.

In the fifties of the last century the Church Missionary Society undertook to establish schools amongst the Santhals, and the Government gave their co-operation. It was proposed that there would be two sorts of schools, viz., the ordinary schools and the industrial schools. In the latter, various arts, such as tanning, shoemaking, rope making, carpet making, weaving tusser silk and crafts of agriculture would be taught.

Later, this scheme of education was disapproved by the Court of Directors who desired that in supersession of the previous arrangement, a scheme was to be prepared for affording the Santhals the means of education through the agency of Government officers.

W. W. Hunter in his Statistical Account of Bengal (Vol. XIV), 1877 gives us an account of the progress of education. He mentions "the progress of education in Bhagalpur has been small, when compared with its great diffusion in Bengal proper during the past twenty years. The number of Government and aided schools in the district was 10 in 1856-57, and 12 in 1870-71, showing an increase of two schools only. In 1860-61 the number was only 9. The total number of pupils, however, increased in the same period from 358 to 750. By this time a system had been evolved and vernaculars were the medium of instruction in the lower stages while English became the medium in the higher stages."

According to the Police statement from 1861 to 1864 (Vol. 457) education was not much encouraged by residents. There was one

Anglo-Vernacular School at the Sudder Station and there also existed one Government school besides this. There were few Government vernacular schools which were not well attended. The number of native *Pathshalas* was insignificant and the attendance paltry.

W. W. Hunter further mentioned that in 1873-74, the number of Government and aided-school had increased to 234 in consequence of the introduction of large changes in the system of primary education, whereby 222 schools received grants varying from 8s. to 10s. month. By the same year, the number of pupils had increased to 5,972 of whom 5,273 were Hindus, 692 Muhammadans, 4 Christians and 3 of other dominations.

The total number of schools in the district in 1873-74 was 244, attended by 6,270 pupils, showing one school to every 177 square miles of area, and to every 7,484 of the population, attended by a student from every 291 of the population.

Regarding Higher Class English Schools Hunter mentioned that there was only a single school of that description in Bhagalpur district, which was, however, one of the oldest in Bihar having been founded in 1837. There were 176 pupils on the rolls at the end of 1856-57. The number of pupils rose from 360 in 1871-72 to 386 in 1872-73. The average daily attendance was 312 in 1871-72, against 272 in 1872-73 and the fees realised amounted to £716 13s. 9¾d., against £630 5s. 1½d.

Regarding Middle Class English Schools Hunter mentioned that in 1873-74 there were three aided Middle English Schools at Colgong, Madhepura and Banka and four unaided at Barari, Sonbarsa, Parmeswarpur and Supaul, the aggregate number of pupils was 302 of whom 114 were in the aided and 188 were in the unaided schools.*

He mentioned that there were seven middle class vernacular schools in the district in 1872-73. They were attended by 300 pupils. The school at the headquarters town of Bhagalpur stood first, the average daily attendants in 1872-73 being 143 against 115 in the previous year.

Regarding Primary Schools Hunter mentioned that at the headquarters subdivision, there were about 129 *Pathshalas* at the time the census was taken in 1872. Later on, in the same year, when the new system of primary education was introduced, only 72 of these and 7 *maktabs* could be discovered; of those found; 56 schools, attended by 2,280 boys, had been admitted to the benefit of the new grant-in-aid rules and subjected to Government supervision.

From Hunter we also find that there was a Normal School at Bhagalpur to train *Gurus* or school masters for the village schools.

*Madhepura and Supaul are now in Saharsa district which was carved out of Bhagalpur district.

Further he mentioned that there was one girls' school at Bhagalpur during 1873-74. It was attended by 13 Bengali girls and 1 Bihari. The girls read the Bengali Primer, Geography of India and Arithmetic and they were also taught needle work. This seems to have been the first girls' school in the district.

The same system of education continued and there was an expansion of schools of various stages for the boys. The number of girls' schools, however, did not expand much.

The following quotation from the last *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* by J. Byrne will show the trend of educational progress till 1909 :—

"*General.*—It must be recognised from the outset that education though making considerable progress is in a backward condition in this district. The test of literacy adopted at the last census was very easy, namely, ability to read and write any vernacular. The census enumerators generally interpret this test in a far from stringent manner, and classify as literate any one who can read and write his own name. Even this test was only passed by 69,260 persons in 1901. As regards literacy in English, only 2,591 persons were returned as able to read and write English.

"This means that only 66 males per thousand and 1 female per thousand are literate. In 1891, 61 males and 1 female per thousand were returned as literate and learning. The subdivision into literate, learning and illiterate was maintained in the enumerations of 1881 and 1891, but has been dropped since as it gave rise to considerable anomalies without any compensating gain.

"In 1881, 42 males only per thousand were learning and literate ; no females were returned as learning or literate. As the learners in 1881 and 1891 are the literates in 1891 and 1901, it is clear that there has been steady progress made in the direction of literacy during the last twenty years. The figures of the 1911 census will probably show a further increase.

"Another point of view from which this question may well be regarded is the consideration of the number of persons per thousand, over the age of 15, that are literate. In 1891 the figures were 86 males and 1 female per thousand; in 1901 the corresponding figures were 95 males and 2 females. This shows a very considerable increase and is a hopeful indication for the future.

"*Distribution of literates.*—The Sadar subdivision contained in 1901, 30,675 literates out of the district total of 69,260.

In Bhagalpur thana itself there were 17,033 literates and the majority of these no doubt were living in the town. So too in Colgong thana there were 5,867 literates, most of whom were living in the Municipality of Colgong.

"Banka subdivision had 13,117 literates out of a population of 4,33,499. Its standard of literacy was thus higher than that of Madhipura, with 12,791 literates out of 5,59,310 inhabitants; and higher also than that of Supaul which had 12,677 literates out of 5,10,900 inhabitants.

"*Numbers attending school.*—In this district, the number of boys of school going age is about 154,130. In 1907-08 only 15.4 per cent of those were attending school and in 1908-09, only 19.9 per cent. In this respect this district is almost the worst in the province, only two (Palamau and Champaran), and those notoriously backward districts, returning smaller percentages.

"*Collegiate education.*—Collegiate education in Bhagalpur is identified with the Tej Narain Jubilee College, which was established in 1887 by Babu Tej Narain Singh, a local zamindar. It was at first a second grade college but in 1890 it was raised to its present status as a first grade Arts College. Law classes were opened then but they have recently been abandoned as "affiliation in law" was refused to this college.

"No Government grant is taken by this college. It is maintained entirely by subscriptions and donations supplemented by the receipts from fees. The fees are rupees five and rupees six per month. In 1902 the college had 213 students on its roll and 28 in the Law Department. These figures have not been maintained. In 1904, there were 138 on the rolls in 1906, 183; and in 1908, 178. In this last year, the average monthly roll number was 148, and the average daily attendance 102. The total expenditure in 1908 was Rs. 18,994, which sum was derived in practically equal proportions from fees and from endowments and other private sources. The cost per annum of each student was thus Rs. 128. Fifty-six students were presented for the First Arts examination of whom 24, or 30.3 per cent, were successful. Forty-two students were presented for the B. A. examination of whom 14, or 33.3 per cent passed. The corresponding figures for the whole province are 41 per cent of successes in the First Arts examination and 37 per cent in the B. A. degree examination, so this college is a little below the general average.

"The following figures, taken from the Annual Administration Report of the Bhagalpur Division for 1908-09, give an

idea of the number of educational institutions in the district and of the amount expended on education from various sources.

"*High Schools*.—There were seven high schools with 1,454 pupils on the rolls. They received Rs. 9,257 from provincial revenues; Rs. 26,221 from fees and Rs. 12,755 from other sources in the year 1908-09. The average cost per pupil was thus Rs. 33.17. As compared with the figures for 1894-95, there was a marked increase under every one of the heads just enumerated. No financial aid was given by the District Board or by the Municipalities in that year to high schools.

"*Middle Schools*.—Including English and Vernacular schools, there were in all 11 Middle schools with 907 pupils on roll in 1908-09. They received Rs. 600 from Provincial revenues; Rs. 2,961 from the District Board; Rs. 480 from Municipal Funds; Rs. 3,578 from fees, and Rs. 2,333 from other sources in that year. The average cost per pupil was Rs. 10.9.

"*Primary Schools*.—Including Upper and Lower, there were 984 Primary schools with 25,042 pupils on rolls in that year. Provincial revenues contributed Rs. 5,608 in that year; District Board funds contributed Rs. 23,062; Municipal funds contributed Rs. 1,398. The receipts from fees amounted to Rs. 38,070 and from other sources Rs. 22,771. The average cost per pupil was Rs. 3.6 only.

"*Other Schools*.—There were also nine training schools for teachers attended by 149 pupils. The total cost to provincial revenues was Rs. 7,610 and the sum realised from fees was Rs. 455. The cost per pupil was thus Rs. 54.1.

"In addition there are some Sanskrit *tols* of which the most important is the Vidyasagar Memorial Sanskrit *Tol* at Kanangarh. It is attended by about 75 pupils. A monthly sum of Rs. 25 is granted by Government to it and private donations and subscriptions help to maintain it. The subjects taught are Sanskrit, grammar and literature, astronomy and *smriti*.

"There are 52 Muhammadan *maktabs* as well, the cost of which to Provincial revenues was Rs. 1,789. The sum realised from fees was Rs. 1,527 and from other sources, Rs. 680. The cost of each institution was thus Rs. 76.8 per annum. There are also some schools for aboriginals such as the Sonthals, Dhangars, etc., who are numerous on the eastern and southern borders of the district."*

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* *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* by J. Byrne.

INCIDENCE OF LITERACY

In 1881 there were only 42 males per thousand as literates. The percentage was 4.2 per cent. This rose to 6.6 per cent during 1901. This presents a picture of progress in field of education for males. The population of the district according to the census of 1951 is 1,429,069. According to 1951 Census* there are 138,183 persons who can only read and write but have not passed the middle examination but are classified as literate population. The percentage of literacy of both males and females according to the Census of 1951 comes to 9.66 per cent.

The following table supplied by the Education Department regarding the number of persons attending different kinds of institutions will show the steady progress of education in the district :—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1909-10	28,537	4,163	32,700
1916-17	34,654	4,593	39,247
1921-22	41,107	4,686	45,793
1926-27	59,296	4,606	63,902
1931-32	56,835	4,850	61,685
1935-36	60,993	9,887	70,880
1940-41	69,171	11,606	80,777
1946-47	83,672	5,976	89,640
1951-52	73,066	14,746	87,812
1952—57..	83,484	20,938	1,04,422

The following statement quoted from the District Census Hand Book, 1956 gives the number of literates and persons who have passed any institutional, academic, vocational or technical examination:—

	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Literate	138,183	102,378	35,805
Middle School	25,651	19,968	5,683
Matriculate	9,296	7,553	1,743
Intermediate	4,743	4,169	574
Graduate	1,904	1,753	151
Post-Graduate	768	768	..
Teaching	1,542	1,301	241
Engineering	42	42	..
Commerce	43	41	2
Agriculture	99	99	..
Veterinary	16	16	..
Legal	627	627	..
Medical	1,286	1,224	62
Others	11,211	9,067	2,144
TOTAL ..	195,411	149,006	46,405

District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur, p. 98.

From the statistics it is apparent that in the technical branches of education like Engineering, Commerce, Agriculture and Veterinary women seem to take no interest. The chief avocation for educated women appears to be that of teachers and doctors. The category 'others' include those who have passed Hindi examinations, such as, *Prathama*, *Madhyama*, *Sahityaratna*, *Visharad*, etc. On the whole it cannot be said that the picture of literacy and education against the background of the total population is very encouraging.

SPREAD OF EDUCATION AMONG WOMEN AND BACKWARD CLASSES

Girls' Education

According to the old Gazetteer, in 1891 only one female was literate among a thousand and in 1001, only two females per thousand.* The number of literates among females in 1951 was 46,405 and the percentage comes to 3.3 per cent. This is a poor progress.

During 1909-10 the total number of persons getting education was 32,700, i. e., 28,537 males and 4,163 females. This figure rose to 63,902 persons, i. e., 59,296 males and 4,606 females during 1926-27, i. e., 92.9 per cent males and 7.1 per cent females.

There has been a gradual rise in the number of girl scholars, attending different kinds of institutions and in 1951-52 the figure was 14,746. During the quinquennial period 1952—57 there has been a somewhat rapid expansion of education of girls. The number of girl scholars attending different kinds of institutions at the end of 1957 was 20,493.

Mokshada Girls' High School was started by late Sri K. D. Ghosh, father of Sri Aurobindo Ghosh. Now it has become a Higher secondary School and imparts teaching up to Intermediate. This school may be described as one of the pioneers of female education in the district. During the session 1959-60 there were 871 students in this school. At present (1961) 45 students are in National Cadet Corps. The Zanana Mission School was established in 1886, which imparts teaching up to Matric and during 1960, 394 girls were reading. A Women's College teaching up to B. A. standard was started in Bhagalpur in 1949. A Government Girls' High School at Bhagalpur was started in 1953 which imparts teaching up to Matric and 271 girls are reading. A Balika Vidyalaya at Nathnagar was established in 1960 which also imparts teaching up to Matric and 249 students are reading. The Girls' Middle School of Banka has also been brought under Government management.

District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur by J. Byrne (1911), p. 164.

During 1952—57, educated females were admitted in the Junior Training School for teachers' training. This increased the percentage of trained female teachers in schools. The number rose from 209 in 1951-52 to 233 during 1956-57. In 1960 a Women's Training School at Tilkapur in P.-S. Sultanganj was established. There are 77 trainees and four teachers. Till the end of 1956-57 this district had three High, six Middle and 152 Primary schools for girls.

Education among Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Backward communities.

A school for the Hill Rangers.—Francis Buchanan mentions regarding schools for Hill Rangers as follows:—

"With a view to increase the efficiency of the corps of Rangers, and to promote the happiness and civilisation of the hill people a school was established for them at Bhagalpur in 1822. This school was originally set on foot by Cleveland, but had been neglected by his successors in-office. It was revived by Lord Hastings. The school situated within the lines, provided an accommodation for about 350 scholars, including 230 or 250 young sepoys of the corps, and about 80 children who were relations of the native officers and sepoys, residing in the lines waiting for vacancies in the corps. The teaching staff consisted of a Headmaster and two assistants, the former receiving a monthly salary of Rs. 40 and the latter Rs. 10 each. There were, besides, two menial servants on Rs. 4 each. Including the salaries of the staff, and the provision of Rs. 100 for dieting the pupils, who could not provide for themselves and Rs. 30 for papers, ink, book, etc. The monthly expenses incurred amounted to Rs. 200. Captain Graham of the Hill Rangers, an intelligent Officer, was appointed to the charge of the school and he drew up regulations for its internal management."

Bishop Heber, in the narrative of his journey, gives an account of this school. He wrote : "the school occupies a large and neat bungalow, one room which is the lodging of the school master, the other with a long verandah all round, filled with Puharee Sepoys and their sons, who are all taught to read, write and cypher in Kythee character, which is that used by the lower classes in this district for their common intercourse."

During the year 1954-55 there were 23 Scheduled Tribes schools in the district out of which 20 were Lower Primary and 3 were Upper Primary schools.

The number of special schools in the district for the education of scheduled castes was one Upper Primary and 30 Lower Primary schools during the year 1956-57 as against one Upper Primary and 28 Lower Primary schools during the year 1955-56. The number of pupils reading in these institutions in the year 1956-57 was 930 boys and 245 girls as against 1,026 boys and 207 girls in the year 1955-56. The number of boys has decreased by 96 partly due to the economic depression and withdrawal of the pupils from Primary schools for further studies in Middle schools whereas the number of girls has increased by 38 in the year 1956-57. The expenditure incurred on these institutions during the year 1956-57 was Rs. 22,965 as against Rs. 23,517 of the previous year.

The number of schools for the education of the scheduled tribes in the district was two Upper Primary and 42 Lower Primary schools during the year 1956-57 as against one Upper Primary and 43 Lower Primary schools in 1955-56. The number of institutions remained constant during the year 1955-56. One Lower Primary school was upgraded to upper standard in the year 1956-57 under Expansion Improvement Programme. The enrolment of pupils in the institutions was 1,451 boys and 208 girls during the year 1956-57 as against 1,286 boys and 68 girls in previous years. From 1951 to 1957, 14 Harijan Lower Primary schools were opened by Welfare Department in the district. These are located at Dukharan Purawa P.-S. Rajaun, Supaha P.-S. Katoria, Chandan Nawadih P.-S. Katoria, Bhiti Sultanpur P.-S. Sabour, Raghunathpur Kataun P.-S. Rajaun, Kusahi P.-S. Sultanganj, Mohanpur P.-S. Rajaun, Gouripur P.-S. Katoria, Tetri P.-S. Naugachhia, Shyampur P.-S. Rajaun, Bhramarpur P.-S. Bihpur, Ekchari P.-S. Pirpainty and Belhar P.-S. Belhar. The main function of these schools is to provide education to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students. No fees are charged from the students. These special schools admit other boys of different communities as well.

There were 20 *Muktabs* for the Backward Muslims, 19 for boys and one for girls during the year 1956-57 as against the same number in the previous year. The number of pupils on roll in these institutions was 518 boys and 182 girls as against 475 boys and 192 girls in the previous year. The number of boys has increased by 43 during the year 1956-57 whereas the number of girls has decreased by 10 due to economic depression.

The total number of students of Backward Class including Backward Muslims reading in different kind of institutions of the district in the year 1956-57 was 55,678 boys and 10,027 girls as against 49,937 boys and 8,232 girls of the previous year.

Primary Education

During the year 1909-10 there were 1,054 Primary schools in this district. It rose to 1,096 in the year 1916-17 due to certain enactments and allocation of responsibilities to local bodies as

well. During 1921-22 and 1926-27 the number rose to 1,260 and 1,473 respectively. There was practically no increase till 1931-32. But during 1935-36 it rose to 1,959. The gradual rise in the number of institutions went on and it came to 1,571 during 1940-41. It was soon after, observed by Government that some schools were inefficient and should be abolished. This was implemented and the number of Primary schools came down to 1,404 during 1946-47. During the year 1953 to 1960, 566 Primary schools were opened by State Government. Among these, 55 schools were upgraded from Lower Primary to Upper Primary and from Upper to Middle.

In the year 1953-54 two important steps with far reaching consequences were taken. The first is the enforcement of Expansion Improvement Programme Scheme, which helped the problem of the educated unemployed, and established schools in the district on an equitable distribution basis keeping in view the areas and the number of population for whom these schools were meant. The second is the promulgation of the Local Self-Government Amending and Validating Act, 1954, which put an end to the dual system of administration in the field of education to a considerable extent. Before 1954 the Primary schools were controlled both by the local bodies and officers of the Education Department. The powers of the Local Bodies in the matter of payments etc., were vested with the District Superintendent of Education (Elementary) who was later designated as District Superintendent of Education.

Several schemes, namely, Expansion Improvement Programme, Introduction of intensive teaching craft in Middle schools and Mid-day meal etc., were in operation during 1954. The view in general was to permit equal facility to one and all in matter of education. All these factors contributed to a great rise in the number of Primary schools during the year 1956-57.

The following table supplied by the Education Department will show the trend of Primary education in the district in the last fifty years :—

Year.		No. of schools.			No. of scholars.			No. of teachers.
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1909-10	..	963	91	1,054	22,687	3,818	26,505	1,261*
1916-17	..	900	196	1,096	27,059	4,491	31,550	1,394
1921-22	..	1,069	191	1,260	32,561	4,437	36,998	1,528
1926-27	..	1,306	167	1,473	45,556	4,152	49,708	2,181
1931-32	..	1,287	159	1,446	46,204	4,125	50,329	2,223
1935-36	..	1,381	178	1,559	48,782	8,775	57,557	2,536
1940-41	..	1,398	173	1,571	53,005	10,387	63,392	3,170
1946-47	..	1,263	141	1,404	59,229	5,012	64,241	2,372
1951-52	..	876	112	988	42,812	11,965	54,777	1,773
1956-57	..	1,014	181	1,195	57,730	13,119	70,849	1,932
1960—61	..	1,150	205	1,355	88,651	13,309	1,01,960	2,217

The decrease in the number of Primary schools during 1951-52 as compared with the year 1941—47 is due to the fact that the two subdivisions of the old district of Bhagalpur were transferred to the newly created sub-district of Saharsa which was later raised to the status of a full fledged district.

MIDDLE EDUCATION

During 1909-10 there were 14 Middle schools for boys and 1 for girls in this district. The number of Middle schools rose to 42 for boys and 2 for girls during 1926-27. It rose to 117 for boys and 2 for girls during 1946-47. The number of Middle schools in 1951-52 came down to 102 for boys and 3 for girls. This happened due to transfer of Madhepura and Supaul subdivisions to Saharsa sub-district later raised to a district. During the year 1957—61 the number of Middle schools rose to 145 in all.

The following table shows the expansion of Middle schools during the year 1909-10 to 1957—61:—

Year.	No. of Schools.			No. of Scholars.			No. of teachers both male and female.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1909-10 ..	14	1	15	1,203	44	1,247	74
1916-17 ..	20	1	21	2,095	54	2,149	106
1921-22 ..	35	2	37	2,473	200	2,673	197
1926-27 ..	42	2	44	4,507	188	4,695	288
1931-32 ..	52	1	53	4,465	178	4,643	258
1935-36 ..	56	1	57	5,331	105	5,436	281
1940-41 ..	80	1	81	7,488	368	7,856	366
1946-47 ..	117	2	119	10,929	215	11,144	527
1951-52 ..	102	3	105	11,140	1,078	12,218	457
1952—57 ..	131	5	136	15,117	25,025	17,642	510
1957—61 ..	137	8	145	2,462	5,440	25,902	701

BASIC EDUCATION

The Basic Education aims at the all round development of a man. In the basic system of education imparting of knowledge is sought to be co-related to nature, society and productive and useful crafts.

Imparting of education through this new system known as Basic system was sponsored in 1948-49 by the opening of Basic Schools at Bihpur and Pachrukhi. Spinning and weaving are taught. Agricultural methods are improved. Efforts are made to meet a part of the cost of education of the scholars by their own earnings. The Basic Institutions are controlled by the District Education Officer, whereas the Deputy Superintendent of Basic Education supervises the Basic Institutions and is the technical adviser to the District Inspector of Schools.

This district had four Senior Basic and 17 Junior Basic Schools during 1951-52. The total enrolments were 661 boys and 97 girls in Senior Basic Schools and 1,435 boys and 192 girls in Junior Basic Schools. All these schools were State managed.

With the advent of an implementation of the Expansion Improvement Programme Scheme in 1953-54 some traditional schools were also converted into Basic Institutions and some new Basic Schools were also started. This gave rise to the number of Basic Schools.

The following table of Senior and Junior Basic Schools will show the expansion of Basic Education in the district:—

Year.		No. of schools.	No. of scholars.	No. of teachers.
1951-52	..	21	2,385	129
1952-53	..	22	2,507	176
1953-54	..	24	2,756	196
1954-55	..	58	5,721	272
1955-56	..	87	7,241	322
1956-57	..	96	10,652	369
1957—61	..	171	16,871	487

POST-BASIC EDUCATION

High School Education as a development of Basic Education envisages diversified type of course to suit varied aptitudes and attainments of pupils to meet the varied requirements of society. The object, is on the one hand, to prepare the most intelligent for higher University and technological education and the majority for direct entry into remunerative employment and professions. In order to attain this objective, it is not only necessary, but imperative that during the period of training, students and teachers should co-operatively make the schools self-sufficient. Subjects taught in the Post-Basic Schools of district are:—

(1) Mother tongue, (2) Mathematics, (3) General Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology),(4) History, (5) Geography,

(6) Economics, (7) Mensuration, (8) Civics, (9) Domestic Science, (10) Physical Education and Music.

There is one Government-managed Post-Basic School at Jethour in P.-S. Rajaun. There are some private-managed Post-Basic Schools at Bihpur, P.-S. Bihpur, Gulani Kusaha, P.-S. Amarpur, Som Nathpur, P.-S. Colgong and Mohanpur, P.-S. Rajaun.

The following table will show the progress of Basic education at the Post-Basic stage in the district:—

Year		No. of schools	No. of scholars	No. of teachers
1952-53	..	1	58	8
1953-54	..	1	52	9
1954-55	..	1	72	8
1955-56	..	1	130	11
1956-57	..	4	356	29
1957—61	..	4	520	27

SECONDARY EDUCATION

In 1863, Zila Schools were sanctioned giving to each district of this Province a Zila School. In 1872-73 the Zila Schools were brought under a "system of net grant", the grant being added to the local sources of income for their maintenance. There were six classes of these schools with varying grants. For many years most of the Zila Schools had no houses of their own. The Bhagalpur Zila School was held in a rented house up to the year 1871. Gradually Bhagalpur Zila School was provided with building. At first the school was located at the site of the present Collectorate. Mr. Frank Lyall, I. C. S., was keen for a larger site with a view to its expansion and the school was removed to its present site.*

There were seven High Schools during 1909-10 which continued till 1921. In the year 1921-22 the number rose to 8 and in 1926-27 to 9. The following quinquennial table will show the expansion of schools for Secondary Education.

Year		No. of schools	No. of scholars	No. of teachers
1909-10	..	7	1,563	110
1916-17	..	7	2,305	110
1921-22	..	8	1,751	120
1926-27	..	9	2,766	141
1931-32	..	11	2,315	167

* Some of the earlier Headmasters like Khirod Chandra Roy Chaudhury, Nibaran Chandra Mukherji, Bhagabati Sahay are still remembered.

Year	No. of schools	No. of scholars	No. of teachers
1935-36	15	4,028	209
1940-41	21	5,524	274
1946-47	33	10,240	409
1951-52	39	11,953	493
1956-57	55	15,931	600
1957-61	76	23,826	833

No. of Secondary Schools

So far as the Secondary Education is concerned twelve Higher Secondary Schools, namely, Bhagalpur Zila Multi-purpose Higher Secondary School, C.M.S. Higher Secondary School, Bhagalpur, Marwari Pathshala Higher Secondary School, Bhagalpur, T.N.B. Collegiate Higher Secondary School, Bhagalpur, Sarda Pathshala Higher Secondary School, Colgong, Ishipur Multi-purpose Higher Secondary School, Sabour Higher Secondary School, S.R. Higher Secondary School, Sahpur, Parbatta Higher Secondary School, Mathurapur Higher Secondary School, Mathurapur, Government Multi-purpose Girls School, Bhagalpur and Banka Multi-purpose Higher Secondary School are running in this district. These schools also have been included in the number of High Schools.

University Education

The Bhagalpur University was established by the Bihar State Universities Act, 1960 and came into existence from the 12th July, 1960 when the Act came into force. It is a teaching-*cum*-affiliating University and has its headquarters at Bhagalpur. It has jurisdiction over the four districts of Bhagalpur Division. At present there are 32 affiliated colleges under Bhagalpur University out of which 10 are in Bhagalpur district. Previously the colleges of this Division were affiliated to Bihar University with headquarters at Patna. The Governor of Bihar is the *ex-officio* Chancellor of the University. The University has a Vice-Chancellor who is helped by a Registrar and a Treasurer.

The University has two bodies, Senate and the Syndicate. At present (1961) there are 93 members in the Senate and 19 members in Sydicate. The Senate is the supreme governing body of the University and exercises all the powers of the University. Its main function is to make statutes, consider ordinances, regulations and annual accounts and financial estimate.

The Syndicate is the chief executive body of the University. It controls and administers the property and funds of the University.

There are six Post-Graduate Departments of the University, namely, Hindi, Commerce, Rural Economics and Co-operation, Sociology, Statistics and Labour and Social Welfare in the University. The total number of students reading in the Post-Graduate Departments of the University is 519 (1961 July).

The University has six Faculties, namely, Faculty of Arts, Commerce, Science, Agriculture, Law and Fine Arts and Crafts. There is a Master Plan of the University to build hostels, Senate House, separate Post-Graduate classes, Vice-Chancellor's quarters, Stadium and Library, etc. The University Grants Commission has sanctioned Rs. 1,67,500 for hostel and Rs. 4,80,000 for library.

The Senate House is proposed to be constructed at the present site of Tilha Kothi, Bhagalpur and Vice-Chancellor's quarters is proposed to be built on the eastern side of the Senate House. The University has a library. The Bhagalpur University has just been established (1961) and has yet to grow and stabilise itself.

Tej Narayan Benaili College

This college was established in 1883, first as a M. E. School which within two months of its starting, was raised to a High English School, teaching up to the Entrance Standard of the Calcutta University. This institution was founded by Tej Narayan Singh. It was started in a rented building but later moved to its own building which was constructed by Tej Narayan Singh.

In 1887, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Queen Victoria, it was raised to the status of a second grade college by opening classes for the First Examination in Arts (Intermediate Examination) of the Calcutta University. Babu Ladli Mohan Ghose, a medical practitioner in the town of Bhagalpur, did much to inspire and materialise the idea of this college. Babu Hari Prasanna Mukherjee was the first Principal of the college. The college received liberal donations from Banaili Raj. Raja Kritya Nand Singh who was the only B.A. among the landed magnates of Bihar for a long time and his brother Raja Kalanand Singh gave big donations.

In 1890 it became a first grade college, teaching up to B.A. standard and subsequently Commerce and Law classes were also added.

The Commerce classes were disbanded when it became a constituent college of Bihar University in July, 1959, the Law classes were separated and now running under a separate Law College.

In 1883 Rai Tej Narayan Singh created a trust for payment of Rs. 1,800 per annum to the institution. In 1895 Tej Narayan

Singh and his son Sri Deep Narayan Singh, BAR-AT-LAW, created another trust for payment of Rs. 1,200 per annum to the college.

From 1903 onward Raja Kalanand Singh Bahadur and Raja Kritya Nand Singh Bahadur of Banaili began contributing Rs.1,000 per month to the college. Due to the growth of the college the trustees had to incur heavy expenditure in engaging additional Lecturers, Professors and a Principal on a high salary. On being approached by the trustees Raja Kalanand Singh Bahadur and Raja Kritya Nand Singh Bahadur created a trust on a part of their estate of payment of Rs. 16,000 per annum to the college and made a princely gift of 60 acres of land and Rs. 3,00,000 in cash for construction of buildings. In 1917 the Government contributed 50 per cent of the cost of the construction of the college to be completed. The college moved in this building in 1922.

Rani Ramavati Devi of Banaili made a generous contribution of Rs. 15,000 for the Rama Nand Biological Laboratory of the college for teaching Botany and Zoology up to B.Sc. standard.

In 1913 Government granted an aid of Rs. 1,000 per annum. In 1927 a block grant of Rs. 57,000 per year was made for five years. Thereafter the college came to be treated as a deficit grant college and all its deficit was henceforth to be met by Government till January, 1952. Thereafter on the creation of the University of Bihar with headquarters at Patna the deficit grants came to the college through the University. Ultimately the governing body of the college with the permission of the High Court transferred to the Bihar University. Simultaneously the name of the college was changed from Tej Narayan Jubilee College to Tej Narayan Banaili College on account of the princely donation of the Banaili family. The Tej Narayan Banaili College thus became a constituent college of the Bihar University since 1st July, 1959, and since 12th July, 1960 it became the constituent college of Bhagalpur University.

This college imparts teaching up to B. A. and B. Sc. standard. In 1960-61 the college has 2,081 students among whom six were girls on roll out of which 937 were Science students among whom four were girl students. The opening of Sundarvati Mahila College in Bhagalpur has almost stopped co-education in this college.

There are about 25,500 books in the library and about 29 journals are subscribed in the college. It has got four hostels with an accommodation for 348 students. Two of them are owned by the college and the remaining two are in rented buildings. The accommodation for hostel for the students is very inadequate.

The college has a unit of the Senior Division National Cadet Corps. Besides there are two extensive play grounds in the college, in which provision for outdoor games like Football, Hockey, Cricket, Volley-ball and Tennis, etc., has been made. It has a dispensary.

Tej Narayan Banaili Law College

Law classes were started in the Tej Narayan Banaili College, Bhagalpur in 1952. The Law Department remained a part of this college till the Tej Narayan Banaili College became a constituent college in July, 1959. The Law Department was then separated and it became an independent institution named Tej Narayan Banaili Law College. In 1960 the college shifted from the building of the Tej Narayan Banaili College to a rented building in Naya Bázar Mohalla which is at a distance of half a mile from the Bhagalpur Railway Station. The college imparts teaching in the Faculty of Law up to the Bachelor's degree standard.

During the year 1960, there were 191 students on roll. It has got a hostel.

Marwari College

The college was started by the Marwari community of Bhagalpur in 1941 as a purely Commerce teaching college and was affiliated to Patna University up to the Intermediate Commerce standard.

In 1944, the college was raised to the status of a degree college in Commerce. In 1953 when the Bihar University was created this college was affiliated to this University. In 1954, it got affiliation of Intermediate Arts.. In 1955 it shifted to its own building in Company Bagh. It imparts teaching in Pre-University Arts and Commerce, B.A., B. Com. (Honours) and the three years degree course in Arts and Commerce. Since 12th July, 1960, it is affiliated to Bhagalpur University.

In 1960-61 there were 896 students in Arts and 577 in Commerce and there were 33 teachers. There are 7,400 books and 31 journals and periodicals in the library of the college. It has two hostels which accommodate about 95 students.

The college has a unit of National Cadet Corps and the total strength of the Cadets during the year 1960-61 was 123.

Teachers' Training College, Bhagalpur

The college was established in 1954 by State Government. There are six lecturers including Principal, three craft teachers, one art teacher and one physical training instructor.

In this college, craft is a compulsory subject of study and every trainee has to offer one craft out of the four main crafts, namely, Agriculture including Horticulture and Gardening, Textiles, Card Board and Wood Work. There is a definite hour provided in the college time table for the physical education of the trainees. The

fine art section provides opportunities for a number of subsidiary crafts like drawing, painting, photography and leather work.

The strength of the trainees is fixed to one hundred and sixty five. Over and above this number, a couple of Subdivisional Education Officers, *Pandits* and *Maulvis* are admitted in the college.

There is a hostel in the college campus which accommodates 100 students. There were 6,665 books and 41 magazines in the college library during 1959-60.

The college has a Science and a Psychological Laboratory.

Sundarvati Mahila Mahavidyalaya

This college was started in Bhagalpur as a coaching institution on the 15th August, 1949, in the premises of the Mokshada Girls' School. Subsequently it was shifted to its present building at Khanjarpur, which is a gift from Sri Naresh Mohan Thakur of Barari. He also donated Rs. 40,000 in cash. Sri Surya Mohan Thakur was the other principal donor. The institution was named after his mother's name. It imparts teaching in Arts and Science up to Degree standard.

In 1960-61 there were 318 Arts and 33 Science students in the college. There were 18 whole time and 3 part-time teachers in the college. The college building is situated in a spacious area of 12½ bighas of land.

There is a hostel which accommodates fifty-five students. Students take part in various extra curricular activities.

There are two units of the National Cadet Corps. The total number of Cadets is 90.

Murarka College, Sultanganj

This college was established in 1955 by Ghan Shyam Das Murarka of Sultanganj. The college was located in a building gifted by the Murarka family. The Arts section and Principal's office are still located in the same building. Another building for the Science section has been built in a site acquired for the location of the college. It imparts teaching up to Degree standard in Arts and Science and is under the jurisdiction of Bhagalpur University.

In 1960-61, there were 398 Arts and 307 Science students and 25 teachers in the college. The total area of land owned by the college is about 10 acres.

There is a hostel which accommodates 25 students. The hostel is in a rented building.

The college has a museum and a library.

Gajadhur Bhagat College, Naugachhia

The college was established in 1958 by public donation. It was affiliated to the Bihar University from the session 1959-60 as Naugachhia College and from the session 1960-61 it has been affiliated to the Bhagalpur University. Sri Madhav Prasad Singh Bhagat donated Rs. 51,000 and the college was named Gajadhur Bhagat College. It imparts teaching in Arts up to the Degree standard.

In 1960-61 there were 216 students and 9 teachers in the college. The total area owned by the college is 8.73 acres. The college is running in the building of another institution. It has also a play-ground.

Pandit Baliram Sharma College, Banka

This college was established in 1959 by Pandit Beni Shankar Sharma of Banka. He furnished the entire funds for running the college from Pandit Baliram Sharma Trust. The college was affiliated to the Bihar University in 1959 and since 12th July, 1960 it is affiliated to Bhagalpur University. It is situated in Banka proper, the headquarters of Banka subdivision of the Bhagalpur district. It imparts teaching in Arts up to Degree standard.

In 1960-61 there were 184 students and five teachers in the college. It owned 25 acres of land. The college is running on the upper storey of the Higher Secondary School, Banka.

Bihar Agricultural College, Sabour

This college was established at Sabour, 5 miles east of Bhagalpur in 1910, when Bengal, Bihar and Orissa formed one Province. The courses of studies which originally extended over 3 years, were subsequently reduced to two years certificate course. In 1923 this college was closed down. But in the years that followed, the need for trained personnel in agricultural sciences for the Department of Agriculture was felt and this used to be partially met by deputing a number of stipendiaries for getting agricultural education in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh). As this was an unsatisfactory and inadequate arrangement the college was re-started in the year 1945.

The college imparts training in Agriculture including Livestock and Rural Economy, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Entomology, Veterinary, Agricultural Engineering and Land Record. In the present set up (1961), the undergraduate course extends over three years awarding the degree of B. Sc. (Ag.). The examination consists of three parts, namely, B. Sc. (Ag.). Junior (1st year), B. Sc. (Ag.), Previous (2nd year) and B.Sc. (Ag.), Final (3rd year). All these

examinations are held by the University. The subjects taught are Agronomy, Agricultural Botany, Agricultural Chemistry, Horticulture, Entomology, Plant Pathology (Mycology and Bacteriology and Plant Pathology), Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Economics and Rural Extension, Animal Husbandry, Farm Management, Statistics and Farm Accounts. For M.Sc. (Ag.) degree, classes in five subjects, namely, Agronomy, Horticulture, Entomology, Plant Pathology and Agricultural Extension were started in 1955.

In 1960 there were 91 students in B.Sc. (Ag.) final year and 38 in M.Sc. (Ag.) final in which 35 students passed. The total number of the students was 317 and 43 teachers in the college during the year 1960. It has a separate building for the Under Graduate and Post-Graduate classes. It has two hostels under the college campus.

The college was first affiliated to the Patna University and from 1952 to 11th July, 1960 to the Bihar University. It is now affiliated to the newly-created Bhagalpur University.

The college farm consists of 600 acres. It grows almost all the important crops including fodder. Besides providing facilities for training to the students in the field of practical agriculture, it multiplies seeds of improved and recommended variety. The farm uses both bullock-drawn as well as mechanised implements. There is also a Botanical garden which is of special importance for teaching Botany.

There is a Regional Agricultural Research Institute under which there are 10 research sections, namely, Agronomy, Botany, Horticulture, Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Agricultural Engineering, Irrigation Research, Soil Conservation and Agricultural Statistics.

Kirti Nath Hahneman Medical College

This college was established in 1946 at Sultanganj to teach Homeopathy medical science in scientific and planned manner. In 1949 it was shifted to Bhagalpur. In July, 1960 the college was recognised and affiliated to the State Board of Homeopathic Medicines, Government of Bihar, Patna. Since then it has been imparting teaching for Diploma in Medicine and Surgery.

The outdoor dispensary has been converted into a hospital, where there are 10 indoor beds besides the outdoor charitable clinic.

It has a compound of about 6 1/2 acres of land. There is a hostel attached to the college with accommodation for about 70 students. In July, 1961 there were 60 students on roll.

In 1953 the college started a charitable Homeo dispensary in the Harijan Colony, Jarlahi, in ward no. 8 of the Bhagalpur Municipality.

Mandar Vidyapith

This institution was established in 1945 by Sri Anand Shankar Madhwan near Mandar Hill which is about 29 miles south from Bhagalpur Railway Station. A branch line of Eastern Railway runs from Bhagalpur to Mandar Hill.

It was started in a ruined temple on the eastern foot of the famous Mandar Hill. It was started as a Primary School with two infants, a boy and a girl.

In 1960 there was an unfortunate fire accident and it reduced the entire belongings of the Mandar Vidyapith to ashes. The estimated loss was Rs. 23,000. After the fire accident Bihar Government donated Rs. 15,000 for construction of buildings and Rs. 5,000 for purchase of books. In that year Sri Hari Vallabh Narayan Singh of Sabalpur donated 25 acres of land as gift to the institution.

The college section was started in 1953, *Sangita Bhawan* in 1955, the Primary School and the Mandar Press in the year 1958. The institution is recognised by the Kashi Vidyapith and so after studying here students take the degree examination of the Kashi Vidyapith. The examinations of this institution are not recognised by the Bihar Government or by the Bihar University. The institution gets a monthly grant of Rs. 1,000 from State Government to meet the expenditure.

It is residential, teachers and students live together. Classes are held in the open air. The ideals of Gurukul system of education are followed. The institution has several co-ordinated sections for higher studies in Philosophy and research work in Hindi. There is a press attached where monthly journals are printed. The students and teachers take interest in social education, archaeological excavation and agricultural activities.

At present (1961) there are 125 students and 14 teachers in the institution out of which 12 are Harijans, 46 Santhals and 13 Momins. Out of 125 students, 114 are in school and 11 are in college. Among them 100 students are living in four hostels.

The Mandar Vidyapith Library is well stocked with books in Hindi and English. It has a big reading room in which daily, weekly and monthly magazines and papers are subscribed.

There are two magazines, *Mandar* and *Prachya Bharti* published by the Mandar Vidyapith. The *Mandar* is an English magazine and *Prachya Bharti* is a Hindi monthly magazine.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Professional education is connected with professional schools, such as, Commercial Institutes, Teachers' Training Schools, Silk Institutes, Engineering and Tailoring Institutes, etc.

In 1950-51 a reorientation of the system of teachers' education was found necessary and the courses were modified so as to bring them nearer to the Basic system of the education. The Elementary Training Schools were renamed as Junior Basic Training School. There was an expansion with regard to the number of seats which from 20 in the year 1946-47 rose to the strength of 50.

The training period of Junior Basic Training School was extended from one year to two years, there being a home examination at the end of one year's course instead of the old final Elementary Training Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education. In addition to the above a Senior Basic Training School was also opened at Nagarpara in 1950-51 where two years course was implemented from very beginning. This school was directly placed under the Divisional Superintendent of Basic Education and turned out teachers for employment in Basic Schools. Subsequently in the year 1957-58 distinction between the Basic and non-Basic Schools was removed. All the schools were renamed as Teachers' Training Schools.

The following table will show the progress of professional schools in the district :—

Year	Professional schools		
	Number of schools	Number of scholars	Number of teachers
1909-10	10	231	17
1916-17	10	236	17
1921-22	11	287	19
1926-27	12	328	20
1931-32	8	234	20
1935-36	6	165	20
1940-41	6	274	21
1946-47	7	242	19
1951-52	6	288	28
1952—57	7	556	37
1957—61	9	1,194	73

Technical Education

During 1947—51 there were two technical institutions in the district, namely, the Silk Institute, Nathnagar which imparts training in the Silk Industry and another the C. M. S. Commercial Institute, Bhagalpur imparts training in Shorthand, Typewriting, Book Keeping and Accountancy, etc. During the year 1955-56 an Agricultural School at Mandar Hill, which trains Village Level workers and others to work in the field of agricultural development, was opened. A Stock Supervisor's Training Centre at Bhagalpur was opened for training the personnel in the field of veterinary science and the Harijan Tailoring School at Bhagalpur imparts training in the art of tailoring.

In 1955, Leela Dip Narain Industrial Training Institute was started. It is situated on the bank of the river Ganga at Barari. It imparts training in Civil Engineering, Draftsman, Electrician, Lineman and Wireman, Machinist, Turner, Fitter and Tractor Mechanic. During the session 1960-61 there were 220 trainees. A new scheme of work-*cum*-orientation sponsored by Government of India has been attached to the institute since July, 1960, which imparts training in three trades, i.e., Fitter, Electrician and Turner. This institution is controlled by the Industry Department. There is a Foreman, 3 Supervisors, 14 Instructors and a Principal who teach the students.

The School of Engineering, Bhagalpur was established in 1955. It is controlled by the Industry Department. In 1960-61 there were 180 students. It imparts training in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Diploma Course which is for three years.

The College of Engineering at Bhagalpur was established on 23rd December, 1960. A new college building has been constructed by Government. It imparts training in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical courses. There is provision for 120 students, 45 in Mechanical, 45 in Electrical and 30 in Civil. At present (1961) there are 2 Assistant Professors, 3 Lecturers and a Principal. There are 59 sanctioned posts for Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors for Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. It has been opened by the department of Industries and Mines, Government of Bihar.

Besides this there is also a Law College at Bhagalpur which imparts teaching up to B. L. standard.

School for Cultivation of Fine Arts

In the year 1954 one *Kala Kendra* was started which trains students for Diplomas in various fine arts.

The privately managed *Shilpa Kala Kendra*', provides training in music, painting and embroidery situated at Bhagalpur. Besides the High Schools for girls impart training in music, dancing, painting and drawing.

ORIENTAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Teaching in oriental institutions is based on the age old indigenous pattern and basic Sanskrit, Urdu, Arabic and Persian are taught in such schools.

The progress of the Sanskrit *Tols* and *Madrasas* are in the following table :—

Year.	Number of Sanskrit *Tols*.	Scholars.	Number of Sanskrit Primary Schools.	Scholars.	Number of Madrasas.	Number of Scholars.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1931-32 ..	10	358	32	1,465	3	195
1934-35 ..	16	496	59	1,787	4	305
1936-37 ..	15	435	59	1,774	4	281
1939-40 ..	17	343	50	1,506	5	207
1940-41 ..	15	345	50	1,507	5	195
1942-43 ..	18	556	54	1,662	2	124
*1943-44 ..	22	606	53	1,367	2	116

The above table shows that the number of Sanskrit *Tols* and schools increased but the number of Sanskrit Primary Schools has decreased during the year 1944. The number of *Madrasas* and scholars has also decreased during 1944. Oriental Schools have received general encouragement during recent years. There are four Sanskrit High Schools in the district. There is a Government College at Bhagalpur which was started in 1954. In 1960-61 there were 30 students and 9 teachers. It is affiliated to Darbhanga Sanskrit University.

EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED, DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND

There was no school for deaf, dumb and blind till 1949 in this district. A blind school was established on 9th June, 1949, in a

*Later figures were not available in the office concerned (P. C. R. C.).

rented building at Mundichak (Bhagalpur) with 8 students and 3 teachers. Now it has its own building at Bhikhanpur. It receives grant from State Government and also from the District Board and Bhagalpur Municipality.

There were 40 students including 2 girls during the year 1956-57 against 30 including 3 girls were in the previous year. There are 6 teachers and 30 students at present (1961). The school teaches up to the Matriculation standard besides training in music, agriculture, mat-making and box-making, etc. There are no schools for deaf, dumb and orthopaedically handicapped students.

Social Education—Adult Literacy

Social education scheme was started in the district, after the formation of the first Congress Ministry in 1937. In social education centres, both adult males and females are sought to be given literacy and further education. Each centre has a daily literacy class. Frequently social and cultural gatherings are arranged. Religious songs, readings from religious books, newspapers and magazines, practical demonstration on agricultural activities and village welfare work are frequently held in social education centres.

In 1958 there were 258 Social Education Centres and the number of adults was reported to be 14,311 males and 135 females.

The post-independence period registered a series of land-marks in the sphere of adult literacy. With the opening of Development Blocks, separate officers have been appointed to further social education. Hence the number of such centres has also increased to a great extent. Money is allotted for each centres to purchase books, musical instruments and equipments for holding literacy and cultural classes.

Physical Education

Physical education has been receiving greater attention after the introduction of revised syllabus for Secondary Schools. Almost all the High Schools and some Middle schools have made provision for drill and organised games. Most of the High Schools have got trained physical instructors in the staff. There is a Deputy Superintendent of Physical Education for this district. The Officer is incharge of organising games and physical activities in High Schools, Middle Schools and Basic Schools in the district. His duty is to organise physical training centres (*Akharas and Vyamshalas*) in towns and villages.

One such centre is a branch of Ram Krishna Mission Ashram of Bhagalpur known as *Sharir Shiksha Kendra.* It has been organised for physical and moral uplift of boys and girls of

Bhagalpur. It has its own building. Every evening boys and girls come here and take physical lesson from their teachers for physical advancement.

Auxiliary Cadet Corps and National Cadet Corps

The 4th Bihar Battalion National Cadet Corps was established at Bhagalpur in December, 1953. It imparts military training to the students of colleges and schools. It is divided into two units, namely, Senior Division and Junior Division. Senior Division is meant for college students and Junior Division only for school students. There are units in T. N. B. College, Marwari College, Agricultural College, Sabour and Sundarvati Mahila College. The total number of cadets in these colleges was 497 during July, 1961. There are also units in schools, namely, Zila School, Bhagalpur, Marwari Pathshala, Bhagalpur, C.M.S. Institute, Bhagalpur, Muslim High School, Bhagalpur, T. N. B. Collegiate, Bhagalpur, R. M. K. High School, Banka, Sabour High School, Government Girls' Schools and Mokshada Girls' School. Bhagalpur Auxiliary Cadet Corps is also running in these schools. This unit is only meant only for school boys.

The total strength of the National Cadet Corps Officers in schools and colleges is about 21. They are responsible for their students who are the Cadets.

The main aim of the National Cadet Corps is to develop comradeship, the ideal of service and capacity for leadership in young men and women. Another aim is to provide service training to young men and women so as to stimulate interest in the defence of the country and build up a reserve of potential officers to enable the Armed Forces to expand rapidly in the national emergency.

The Cadets have been greatly benefited by their participation in the units which has improved their tone of discipline and added to their mental, moral and physical development.

Voluntary manual labour (*Shramdan*) was rendered by the A. C. C. and N. C. C. Units of Bhagalpur district for building up Kosi embankment.

Scouting and Girls Guides

During the year 1950, both the associations, namely, Scouts Association and Hindustan Scouts were amalgamated at a higher level and accordingly they merged in the district. It is now functioning as the Bharat Scout and Guides Association with affiliation to the provincial organisation with headquarters in Patna.

The scouts render social service in *melas* where there is usually a large crowd.

Literary Activities

At one time Bhagalpur known as Anga was the seat of Sanskrit learning and culture. With the passage of time, Sanskrit study had a decline. But both Hindi and Bengali literature have had a substantial contribution from literary men of this district. Some of the zaminadars and middle class families of the district and particularly the Banaili family had been noted for their patronage of Hindi literature.

Some years back the district had a number of Hindi magazines which were of high literary standard. Such monthly magazines were Ganga, Kamala, Haldhar, Biswinsadi and Chhaya. Unfortunately they have had a short duration.

Two Hindi weeklies, namely, Lokmat and Jagran are now published from Bhagalpur but they may not be classed as literary publications. Two monthlies devoted to agricultural topics are published from Sabour. They are 'Bagwan' and 'Upaj', Mandar Vidyapith publishes a Hindi monthly magazine, 'Prachya Bharti' and an English monthly 'Mandar'.

Bhagalpur have produced a number of noted Hindi writers some of whom are Sri Rameshwar Jha, Dwijendra, Sri Jharkhandi Jha, Dr. Maheshwari Singh 'Mahesh' etc. There are now quite a few literary societies for the encouragement of Hindi literature. Some of them are *Sahitya Kar Sangh*, *Sahitya Kar Gosthi*, Progessive Writers' Association and *Dwijendra Gosthi*, etc.

Bhagalpur's contribution to Bengali literature is quite considerable. A branch of *Bangiya Sahitya Parishad* (Bengali Academy of Literature) was established at Bhagalpur in 1912. This society is devoted to the cultivation of Bengali literature and meets occasionally for reading of articles, discussions, etc. Bhagalpur has had visits in the past from eminent literary men like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Brahmananda Keshab Chandra Sen, Nabin Chandra Sen, Dwijendra Lal Roy, Aurbindo Ghosh, Rabindra Nath Tagore and others. A largely attended sessions of the Bengali literary conference presided by late Justice Sarada Chandra Mitter was held at Bhagalpur in 1911. Rabindra Nath Tagore had attended this conference.

Quite a few Bengali writers have drawn inspiration from the scenes and trends in the Bhagalpur district. Some of them were men of Bhagalpur. They are Sarat Chandra Chatterji, Surendra Nath Mazumdar, Anurupa Devi, Mrinalini Devi, Surendra Nath Ganguli, Upendra Nath Ganguli, Bibhuti Bhusan Bandopadhay, Balai Mukhopadhaya 'Banaphool'.

Among the Urdu writers and poets of Bhagalpur district, Syed Majidul Alam 'Yas' stands prominent. There are other younger Urdu writers.

It may be mentioned that the efforts of literary men of Bhagalpur irrespective of the language in which they express themselves, had been able to raise Bhagalpur culturally.

LIBRARIES

Bhagalpur at one time had a number of good private libraries belonging to the cultured zamindar families and middle class families. The families of Banaili Raj, Raja Shiva Chandra Banerji, etc., had sizable libraries at one time.

The Bhagalpur Institute established in 1834 at the heart of the town is an unique institution which has stood the passage of time. This institute has a fairly good library of about 4,000 English books and reading room. It is unfortunate that because of financial troubles there has not been much of addition. It has been the venue of many cultural meets in the past. The library has its own building and the members come from elite of the town. The library is kept open to the public every evening where access to the reading room, newspapers, magazines and books is free. The institute also provides facilities for Billiards, Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton, etc.

The State Government have adopted 'Bhagwan Pustakalaya', established in 1913 as a district central library. There are above 7,000 books in various languages and a number of periodicals are also subscribed.

The other libraries in Bhagalpur worth mentioning are Sarswati Pustakalaya, established in 1915, *Bangiya Sahitya Parishad* and Jain Pustakalaya. All colleges and schools have their own libraries. The T. N. B. college library is very well equipped. There are 410 libraries in the district affiliated to the *Zila Pustakalaya Sangh*, a Government organisation which receives money from the Government for its redistribution to the libraries. In 1960 it is reported, a grant of rupees 7,000 was made.

It is, however, unfortunate that there should be very little popularity of the libraries. A local investigation on serveral evenings at Bhagalpur Institute, Bhagwan Pustakalaya and Sarswati Pustakalaya disclosed that on the average daily 100 persons visit the reading rooms. In consideration of the strength of the educated public and particularly the students this number is extremely poor. The village libraries are also not much patronised. Many of them are reported to be semi-private libraries that have managed to get grants. After the abolition of zamindari and the economic depression there is not much chance of opening of fresh libraries.

An investigation in the libraries in Bhagalpur indicated that there is more demand for novels, dramas and other light

literature. Books on serious topics or the old classical literature in English, Hindi or Bengali are hardly in demand. There is, however, a larger incidence of newspaper reading and particularly the language papers. As a matter of fact, the average number of 100 persons visiting libraries in Bhagalpur visit them only for reading newspapers.

MUSEUM

There is no State sponsored museum in the district. A large number of antiquities of Bhagalpur has been removed to Patna museum. There is still possibility of discovering antiquities at Champanagar near Bhagalpur, Patherghatta, Sahkund and other areas. The C. M. S. Institute of Bhagalpur and Murarka College at Sultanganj have a very small collection of antiquities.

BOTANICAL GARDEN

There is a botanical garden at Bihar Agricultural College, Sabour. This garden was established in 1908. The special importance is for teaching the students of the Agricultural College. There are a large number of species of plants.

In Bhagalpur there is a garden Sundarvan belonging to a private Marwari family. This garden has also various types of plants and the public has a free access in specified hours.

SPORTS

Bhagalpur Club, Bhagalpur Institute and the T. N. B. College had set up a high standard of various types of sports—particularly tennis, football and billiards. Soccer is very popular among the students and the public. The Calcutta football teams used to play at Bhagalpur frequently years before and they have helped to improve the standard. Some of the rich families used to liberally patronise the Sports Club with finance. There has been a somewhat decadence in the standard of football although it has grown in popularity while tennis and billiards are almost declining. Hockey is almost dead. Wrestling is also going out as the richer classes no longer keep a wrestler in the house as a sign of prestige.

It is unfortunate that the mushroom ill-equipped colleges that are growing up everywhere have had no contribution to sports.

CHAPTER XIII

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

SURVEY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES IN EARLY TIMES

A proper survey of Medical and Public Health Services before the beginning of the 19th century is not possible because we have no reliable data to build up an account. The earliest document where we find references to the incidence of diseases and the current systems of medicines is in an account of Francis Buchanan who had travelled in the district of Bhagalpur in 1810-11. Francis Buchanan was a doctor and was deputed by the East India Company to travel through various districts which had already come in the British possession and to give a geographical account of such provinces. Francis Buchanan was a remarkable man and in spite of the difficulties of communications, conveyances, scarcity of food and drink and various other hazards he has left us a good account from which we can build up the background of Bhagalpur district for various matters. His manuscript was in the India Office Library and was printed with the permission of the Secretary of State for India in Council and was published in 1939 by the "Bihar and Orissa Research Society", Patna. Buchanan's account of Purnea is embodied in his account of the district of Bhagalpur in 1810-11 (at that time Purnea was a part of Bhagalpur district).

When Francis Buchanan toured through Bhagalpur district there was no Civil Surgeon's Office with data on vital statistics, no municipalities with birth and death register nor regular Police Thanas with records. That is why even if Francis Buchanan has based many of his conclusions on what he had heard has to be partially depended on.

From his account it appears that both Ayurvedic and Unani systems were followed. A large number of indigenous herbs and plants were in common use. There was also a belief that some men of the nomadic tribes, priests and *Ojhas* had knowledge of secret medicines and possessed supernatural powers to exercise evil spirits that caused illness.

Francis Buchanan refers to 8 wise men in Rajmahal (now in Santhal Parganas district) who had some sort of scientific knowledge of medicines. Some of these wise men were Brahmins while others were Kayasthas or Mohammadans. He had no misgivings that many of the deaths were due to wrong diagnosis and want of good medicines.

Surgery was practised in a crude form by the barbers and *Jurrahs*. The *Jurrahs* used a sort of imperfect cuppings for drawing blood and also used to cut a vein. They knew certain herbal ointments by which they treated sores. The *Jurrahs* were mostly Mohammadans. Midwifery was practised by the unlettered women of the *Chamar* caste who would cut the umbilical cord. Witchcraft and sorcery were rampant. Inoculation was chiefly performed by a caste known as *Mali*.

This summary of the trends of public health and medical facilities from Francis Buchanan account 1810-11 will indicate that the allopathic system had not yet been fully introduced. It is only with the consolidation of the district administration and the infiltration of the Europeans and Anglo-Indians as Indigo planters and merchants that the allopathic system could make a headway. The Military Cantonement of the district was also helpful in making allopathic system known to the public. The early Christian Missionaries had also started their small dispensaries from where they would dispense medicines. The planters as elsewhere took a lot of interest in the raiyats, if not for any other end but to see that they lived a healthy life and helped them in making money.

The consolidation of the British administration at the headquarters was followed by a system of police *thanas* and the government employees had to be kept in good health in the midst of the very unfamiliar climate of Bhagalpur district which was full of jungles and swamps. The spread of education was also helpful in propagating approved systems of treatment.

The earlier British administrators had to see that the revenue was properly realised and if there were epidemics or wide scale deaths due to floods or famines they knew that the revenue would suffer. Even if not bent with altruism they had to think of the general incidence of health and medical facilities for the people. The chain of early British administrators in the district had to tour extensively in spite of bad communications and want of conveyances and they had to take proper care of themselves and always carried with them known specifics for cholera, dysentery, etc. Naturally their entourages depended on the officer for the medicines if they needed them. These were some of the reasons that paved the way of the introduction of the allopathic system of medicine.

One can imagine the difficulties of the pioneers of this system of treatment and medicines. They had to fight against the deep seated superstitions of the illiterate mass and to introduce mass scale inoculations and vaccinations to prevent cholera, plague, small-pox, etc. Arrival by plague would devastate the villages by knocking down hundreds of people dead within a week. Similar were the devastations covered by cholera and small-pox. Even villages used to be burnt down to stop the spreading of the

infections. Hospitals and dispensaries were slowly organised and it took decades to make the people hospital minded which they are today.

Organisation

There are now two distinct sections so far as the administration of the Health Department is concerned. Broadly speaking one section is the preventive side which is known as the Public Health Department and the other section is the curative side known as the Medical Department. Previously there were two Directorates, one was known as the Directorate of Public Health under the Director of Public Health who had several Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors and there used to be one District Health Officer at the district headquarters. The other Directorate was under the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and under him there were Civil Surgeons, the highest medical official at the district headquarters. For quite a long time the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals usually the senior most Indian Medical Service Officer available in the province was also the Secretary of the Health Department who controlled both the sections as indicated. With the change of policy of the Government the Secretaryship was taken away from the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals which had caused quite a stir at one time. The post of the Secretary went to a senior I.C.S. man but there was not much interference between the day-to-day administration of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.

With the expansion of both the departments the number of gazetted doctors had enormously increased and it was increasingly felt that there was overlapping and avoidable duplication of work. It was also felt that both the departments would work better if the over-all responsibility and supervision was vested in one officer at Governmental level, and at district level also there should be one senior doctor who could be entrusted with both the preventive and curative sides. It is with this object that the Public Health and the Medical Departments have been recently amalgamated abolishing the post of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and creating a common post of the Director of Health Services for Bihar. The post of Assistant Director of Public Health, Bhagalpur was abolished and a post of the Regional Deputy Director of Health Services was created for the entire Bhagalpur Division.

A Government Circular no. 11-A3-43 of 1958-59, dated the 3rd January, 1959, mentioned that the posts of Civil Surgeons in the districts were converted into posts of Senior Executive Medical Officers-cum-Civil Surgeons. Henceforth the Senior Executive Medical Officers-cum-Civil Surgeons were to be responsible for the efficient implementation, supervision and control of all public health measures, preventive as well as curative.

Duties of Senior Executive Medical Officer.—As mentioned the Senior Executive Medical Officer is responsible for all medical work in the district both preventive and curative. He is assisted by the District Medical Officer of Health in respect of Public Health work.

He is the Superintendent of all Government hospitals and dispensaries within his district except that which is under direct control of the Directorate.

He is responsible for the supervision and inspection of all schemes of the Medical and Public Health section in his district. He is the appointing authority for the different categories of personnel already delegated to him. He initiates the annual confidential report of all Medical Officers employed in his district under all schemes of the Health Department except the District Medical Officer of Health in respect of whom the existing instructions regarding the initiation of annual confidential report continues in operation.

He has the power of transfer of the different categories of Government staff other than the Medical Officer within his district but for transfer outside the district the approval of Regional Deputy Director instead of the Directorate is necessary.

He is an *ex-officio* member of the District Board Sanitation Committee and is appointed as Chairman of that Committee to have sufficient power to co-operate with the District Medical Officer of Health. He devises measures in consultation with the District Medical Officer of Health and the Chairman, District Board for the effective control of epidemics and also to co-ordinate the relief measures to be taken by District Board's epidemic doctors, dispensaries, Medical Officers and the Medical Officers sent by the Health Department specially to control epidemics. He is expected to render every assistance to the District Board and the Board is expected to profit by his expert advice.

The Senior Executive Medical Officer is also responsible for the enforcement of drug control measures and as such he can inspect any druggist's shop within the district and take steps for the prosecution of the defaulters. He is the authority to issue license for medical shops and also to cancel the same in case of non-observance of prescribed rules.

He exercises no administrative control over the Mission Dispensaries, Central Jail Hospital, but he could inspect them and these institutions should be expected to welcome his expect advice. The Central Jail Hospital is managed by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bihar. There is one separate Medical Officer in the Central Jail Hospital.

The Senior Executive Medical Officer-*cum*-Civil Surgeon visit the Sadar and Police Hospitals at Headquarters daily when he is not out of station on duty.

He is expected to inspect all hospitals and dispensaries incharge of Medical Officers of the status of Assistant Surgeon in the district and all hospitals at subdivisional headquarters at least twice a year.

He is expected to scrutinize the expenditure and accounts of every hospital and dispensary in his district and guide the managing body in any irregularity or other circumstances which in his opinion deserves notice. In all professional matters his decision will be final, but if any difference of opinion arises between him and the managing body regarding any non-professional matters affecting the management of the institution, a reference is made to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals or to the Government for a decision.

Duties of District Medical Officer.—His services have been placed under the District Board and he is to give advice on technical matters concerning Public Health, such as control of epidemics, vaccination, sanitation, etc. He supervises the work of the subordinate public health staff, *viz.*, Assistant Health Officers, Vaccinators, Disinfectors, who are the employees of the District Board. He seeks advice of the Senior Executive Medical Officer in every matter relating to Public Health and the latter is to report any case of default and mismanagement to the Government.

The Community Development blocks have a static and mobile dispensary with three health sub-centres. The Block Medical Officers are responsible for both the preventive and curative medicines.

There is a Divisional Anti-Malaria Officer in over-all charge of the Division. There is a District Malaria Officer with five Anti-Malaria Officers for implementing eradication of malaria programme.

In this district Filaria Control Programme has been launched with a District Filaria Officer. All these schemes and doctors are under the supervision of the Senior Executive Medical Officer, who works under the Regional Deputy Director at Bhagalpur and the Director of Health Services at Patna. The Directorate of Health is under a Secretary to the Government.

With the expansion of the Health Department activities, the duty and the responsibility of the Senior Executive Medical Officer has also multiplied. Some schemes sponsored by the Centre for the control of small-pox or family planning, schemes sponsored by World Health Organisation, or B.C.G. Scheme for Tuberculosis or State sponsored schemes for family planning, child welfare, maternity,

etc., are all the ultimate responsibility of the Senior Executive Medical Officer. As a matter of fact the Senior Executive Medical Officer is expected to attend so many meetings at the headquarters as well as in the rural areas (Block Development Headquarters and other places), inspect so many hospitals, dispensaries and medical centres that he has hardly any time to do surgical and medical cases even at the Sadar Hospital.

People have become more hospital-minded and all hospitals and medical centres are over congested and poorly manned. There is a great dearth of lady doctors and nurses throughout the country and Bhagalpur is not an exception. The doctor in Government employment has what is called a chair practice, a remunerative private practice which comes to him almost automatically whether he is a good doctor or not. It is for this reason that slowly the doctors in Government Service build up a private practice quickly and it is complained that they devote themselves more to the private practice at a certain cost to their hospital duties. There is a growing complaint that the hospitals which are over congested and on the average cater to more than 50 per cent patients above what they are expected to serve are neglected by the doctors. Without going deep into the question it may be said that the complaint is not without some basis and the sooner private practice is abolished and the doctors are given a higher scale of pay, it would be better for the hospital organisation. Another bad effect of this private practice is seen in the fact that there has been practically no research by any of the doctors in this district in the course of the last four or five decades. In keenness for private practice the Government doctors often breach medical ethics—this is the general impression.

Registration of Vital Statistics

The system of registration of vital statistics in this State is regulated by the Bengal Birth and Death Registration Act of 1873. Under this Act registration of vital statistics data is compulsory both in urban and rural areas of this State. There is also a provision for penalty in this Act which may extend to five rupees for neglecting in giving the information to the collecting agents of registration of statistics. But as yet, no offenders have been penalised either for not giving the information or for giving wrong information, although the offenders in case of the former are quite common. The law has, thus, not been adequately enforced. The result is that the extent of under-reporting is very high. Moreover, it varies from area to area and district to district. It is also possible that mistakes are committed at the compilation stage both at the thana level and at the district level. The present system of collection of vital staistics data is as follows:—

In the rural areas, as well as in some of the urban areas, the village chaukidars collect the data of vital occurrences of their

areas in *Hath-Chittas* of Birth and Death and submit them to the Thana Officers of the thana concerned on their respective parade day. These Thana Officers are the Registrars of Birth and Death for areas under them according to the Bengal Birth and Death Registration Act of 1873. The parade day in a thana is so arranged that each and every chaukidar has to pay a visit to the thana at least twice a week. The Thana Officers maintain the registers of Births and Deaths. These registers are called "Daily Register of Birth and the Daily Register of Death". The Thana Officers compile the data obtained from the chaukidars and after the completion of a month submit the report to the Civil Surgeon of the district concerned.

In the remaining urban areas the beat jamadars of the municipalities collect the information from their respective wards and submit them to the Health Officer or to the Sanitary Inspector of the municipalities. These Health Officers are the Registrars of Births and Deaths of the municipalities concerned. For the municipalities where there are no Health Officers, the Sanitary Inspectors or the Health Inspectors are the Registrars of Births and Deaths. These Health Officers or the Sanitary Inspectors like Thana Officers maintain the registers of births and deaths and submit the monthly consolidated report to the Civil Surgeon. The Civil Surgeon compiles the vital statistics both for rural and urban areas of the district concerned and sends consolidated monthly vital statistics returns to the Director of Central Bureau of Economics and Statistics. Since 1st January, 1954 the Directorate of Economics and Statistics maintain the statistics of vital occurrences for the State as a whole and submit the information to the Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, New Delhi.

Regarding Vital Statistics in the last District Gazetteer for Bhagalpur (1911) Byrne mentions—"In April, May, June, August and September the average death rate is about 2.25 per mille. In October, December and January it is about 2.5 and in November the least healthy month—it is as high as 3.23 per mille. The highest death rate recorded is 41.3 per mille in 1894. That for 1908 was only 33.22 per mille." In 1890 and 1891 the death rate was identical. The highest birth rate occurs in 1897 a famine year which followed on a very unhealthy year. The highest mortality recorded was in 1894, when the number of death was 41.3 per mille and the lowest was in the year 1890.

The statistics of births and deaths from 1941 to 1958 are given below. Though data regarding births and deaths are not very reliable, they give some idea of the variation of population from year to year.

TABLE 1.

Years.	Births.			Deaths.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1941	71,982	37,329	34,653	49,833	26,201	23,026
1942	47,870	24,758	22,912	30,496	16,649	13,847
1943	41,221	21,423	19,798	29,391	15,754	13,037
1944	35,576	18,638	16,934	28,312	15,420	12,892
1945	52,394	27,214	25,180	41,156	22,105	19,051
1946	50,837	26,401	24,436	32,037	17,359	14,678
1947	31,749	16,330	15,419	24,503	13,116	11,380
1948	28,264	14,154	13,310	21,033	11,293	9,740
1949	19,015	9,533	9,482	10,012	5,569	4,443
1950	19,551	10,135	9,416	13,241	7,287	5,954
1951	N A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1952	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1953	19,816	10,359	9,557	9,797	5,404	4,393
1954	21,106	10,664	10,442	10,436	5,618	4,818
1955	18,464	9,420	8,964	9,179	4,856	4,323
1956	16,770	8,842	7,925	8,337	4,415	3,912
1957	11,346	5,818	5,528	8,164	4,265	3,899
1958	11,729	6,301	5,428	7,969	4,481	3,488

Thus from the statistics it is apparent that both birth and death rate have shown downward tendency. The average birth rate in the year 1941 to 1945 was 37 per mille of the total population whereas in the quinquennium 1946—50 the average birth rate fell to 20 per mille of the total population. In the last two years i.e., 1957 and 1958 the average birth rate came down to 8.5 per mille of the total population. The highest birth rate was in 1941 while the lowest birth rate was in 1957. The average death rate during the year 1941 to 1945 was 25.2 per mille of the total population whereas in the quinquennium 1946—50 it fell to 14.2 per mille of the population. In the last two years the average death rate came down to 7.3 per mille of the total population. The highest death rate was in 1941 while the lowest death rate was in 1958.

FOOD

A comprehensive account of the different types of food taken by the people of this district occurs in the "People" chapter of this Gazetteer. Briefly it may be said that the common diet consists of—

(1) Cereals—Rice, Maize, Wheat, Barley or Jai, *Khesari*, *Kurthi*, *Arhar*, Gram, *Masur*, *Kali Pea* and *Mung*.

Of these cereals, commonly taken are rice, maize, wheat, jai, *khesari* and a little quantity of *arhar*, gram and *masur-dals*.

(2) Fruits—Banana and several fruits like Mango, Guava, *Leechi*, *Bair*, *Jamun* and *Singharah*. Fruits do not form a part of daily food.

(3) Fats—Very little quantity is taken in the shape of mustard oil, ghee, small quantity of milk and curd are taken by people who can afford it.

(4) Fish and meat are seldom taken.

The average intake of an adult male is about 20 oz. of rice, or 20 oz. of *Sattu*, i.e., powdered maize, gram, *khesari* or jai, pulse 10 oz. vegetable 1 oz., leafy vegetables 2 oz., a little of mustard oil and rarely milk or curd, and sometimes fish and meat.

The average caloric value supplied by the daily intake of food is about 2,200 units whereas the daily requirements for an averaige adult men is about 3,000 units.

The fate of the average growing child is rather bad. The principal food which is very much needed by a child is sufficient quantity of milk and a quantity of fruit juice. As regards milk they get an amount of milk though very much less than what is required, but as regards fruit juice it is seldom given.

This simple analysis shows that the average people of this district have unbalanced food, which is poor in protein, fats and other vitamin contents.

COMMON DISEASES

The common diseases of the district are the same as one finds in the other parts of the State, i. e., fevers due to common cold, influenza and other respiratory diseases such as Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Dysentery, Hookworm, Typhoid, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Venereal diseases. Any attempt to get accurate figures of attacks and deaths would be futile as it is well known that a very large percentage of cases go undiagnosed and not brought to the hospitals. The number of the cases at Bhagalpur hospital will give some idea but it is also not known how many cases are from the urban area and how many from the rural area. From a discussion with the leading doctors in Bhagalpur city and outside it is understood

that the incidence of fever and dysentery is extremely high. Dysentery cases are very common particularly in hot weather and also when the paddy seedlings are planted. Malnutrition and Ankylostoma infections are responsible for the high incidence of dysentery.

Incidence of other Principal Diseases

Tuberculosis

The following statistics from Bhagalpur Sadar Hospital are suggestive:—

Year.	Outdoor T. B. Patients.	Indoor T. B. Patients.	Death (Indoor patients).
1951	2,558	No patient	..
1952	2,189	Ditto	..
1953	3,463	Ditto	..
1954	2,623	Ditto	..
1955	3,193	N. A.	..
1956	2,117	"	..
1957	4,487	"	..
1958	7,880	23	..
1959	13,516	30	..
1960	13,809	16	1

This statistics would show that the incidence of T. B. is quite high but there is an apathy to come to the hospital. Since the outdoor section of the hospital does not keep any account of mortality figure and there is allergy for being an indoor patient, the incidence of mortality cannot be properly calculated. We have now better diagnostic facilities and the apathy to come to the hospital has to be met. Bhagalpur has a sizeable industrial population and it is understood that T. B. is quite common among them.

A Chest Clinic has been started in the Sadar Hospital at Bhagalpur. This is the only clinic of this type in the district. For indoor patients a separate ward of 10 beds (6 for males and 4 for females) has been constructed.

Leprosy

Leprosy is common in the southern part of the district specially in Sonhaula Thana area.

There are three institutions for treatment of lepers, one maintained at Banka by the State Government known as Banka

Leprosy Subsidiary Centre, and two maintained by private bodies one at Dattbat known as New Leper Asylum and the other at Nathnagar maintained by Christian Mission Society. The institutions receive grant from the Government and the local bodies. There is accommodation for 60 patients but more could not be accommodated for want of funds. The Leper Asylum at Bhagalpur provides for clothing, bedding, medicine, food, etc. to indoor patients and medicines only to outdoor patients.

The following statistics of New Leper Asylum at Bhagalpur will give a fair idea about the incidence of leprosy in this district:—

Years.	Outdoor patients.	Indoor patients.
1947	1,029	242
1948	1,060	240
1949	1,163	175
1950	1,344	172
1951	1,796	177
1952	Not available	Not available.
1953	Ditto	Ditto.
1954	Ditto	Ditto.
1955	260	Ditto.
1956	186	Ditto.
1957	143	Ditto.
1958	..	..
1959	..	..
1960	..	..

VENEREAL DISEASES

It is understood that an investigation shows that the number of venereal cases had been on the increase till recently. It is not possible to get an approximate correct figure as venereal patients would rather go to a private doctor than to a Government hospital or a State dispensary.

An attempt was made to get the figures from the Civil Surgeon's office from 1955 to 1960 but figures from 1955 to 1957 only were available. They were 519 for 1955, 1,498 for 1956 and 1,429 for 1957. It has, however, been gathered that since use of contraceptives and the efficacy of penicillin injection has been proved the incidence has gone down. It is, however, a notorious fact that the *melas* and fairs spread such diseases owing to the pressure of brothels in such *melas*.

As regards Influenza it may be mentioned that in 1919-20 and 1920-21 it broke out throughout the Bhagalpur district.

Hospitals and Dispensaries

Hospitals and dispensaries in this district, according to the line of treatment followed, may be said to be mainly of four types, viz., Allopathic, Homoeopathic, Ayurvedic and Naturopathic. The number of Allopathic dispensaries is by far the largest. There is no organised Unani dispensary and Unani medicines are given by the Hakims practising Unani methods.

There are altogether 50 Allopathic hospitals and dispensaries functioning in the district, out of which 24 are run by Government 24 by the District Board, one is run by the Central Jail and one by the Christian Missionaries. The total number of hospitals with indoor arrangement is 7. A list of hospitals, dispensaries and other medical institutions is given below—

(a) Names of Hospitals maintained by the Government.

Name of Hospital.	Total no. of beds.	Males.	Females.
1. Sadar Hospital, Bhagalpur	180	108	72
2. Subdivisional Hospital, Banka ..	24	12	12
3. Female Hospital, Bhagalpur	10	Nil	10
4. Sabour Hospital, Sabour	6	4	2
5. Police Hospital, Bhagalpur	27	27	Nil.
6. Constable Training Hospital, Bhagalpur	27	27	Nil.
7. Central Jail Hospital, Bhagalpur ..	152	148	4

(b) Names of Dispensaries maintained by the Government.

1. State Dispensary, Katoria.
2. State Dispensary, Baunsi.
3. State Dispensary, Sultanganj.
4. State Dispensary, Sabalpur.
5. State Dispensary, Pirpainty.
6. State Dispensary, Colgong.
7. State Dispensary, Mohadinagar.
8. State Dispensary, Naugachhia.
9. State Dispensary, Gopalpur.
10. State Dispensary, Bihpur.
11. State Dispensary, Dholbajja.
12. State Dispensary, Shahkund.
13. State Dispensary, Rajaun.
14. State Dispensary, Kurmadih.
15. State Dispensary, Jagdishpur.
16. State Dispensary, Chanan.
17. State Dispensary, Dhuraiya.
18. State Dispensary, Sonhaula.

Practically all these hospitals actually keep patients much beyond the strength of actual beds. Sanction has been given to attach 6 beds to each of the State dispensaries but the scheme has not yet been implemented. In the Third Five Year Plan it is expected that this will be implemented.

(c) *Names of Dispensaries maintained by the District Board.*

1. Kajraili Dispensary.
2. Sajaun Dispensary.
3. Nandlalpur Dispensary.
4. Karharia Dispensary.
5. Tarar Dispensary.
6. Lahipur Dispensary.
7. Khagra Dispensary.
8. Narayanpur Dispensary.
9. Gausipur Dispensary.
10. Dumrama Dispensary.
11. Telia Dispensary.
12. Bishunpur Dispensary.
13. Kharandha Dispensary.
14. Bela Bijhoura Dispensary.
15. Jamdaha Dispensary.
16. Sultanganj Dispensary.
17. Sonhaula Dispensary.
18. Shahkund Dispensary.
19. Gopalpur Dispensary.
20. Dhuraiya Dispensary.
21. Rajaun Dispensary.
22. Kurmadih Dispensary.
23. Katoria Dispensary.
24. Chanan Dispensary.

The above dispensaries are maintained by the District Board. These dispensaries receive subsidiary grants from District Board. They do not maintain indoor beds to treat the indoor patients. Only outdoor patients are treated. These dispensaries are under the administrative charge of District Medical Officer, Bhagalpur.

The Christian Missionaries have started only a charitable dispensary namely "Catholic Mission Dispensary" at Hari Mohara where only outdoor patients are treated.

A centre for naturopathy has been recently opened in Bhagalpur.

Medical Practitioners

It is not possible to give any thing like a correct number of the medical practitioners. There is no system of qualified doctors registering themselves with the district authorities. There is no statutory bar for changing the plan of practice. There is no obligation for even a qualified doctor to be registered as a member of the Branch of Indian Medical Association. Unfortunately again there is no statutory restriction preventing an unqualified allopathic doctor practising both medicine and surgery. Regarding the Homoeopaths the system of registration of qualified Homoeopaths is not obligatory. There are also very good Homoeopaths who have become so by experience and private study and may not have any Homoeopathic qualifications. There are also absolutely

unqualified quack Homoeopaths who deal in giving Homoeopathic medicines without any experience or proper diagnosis. The same remarks could be made regarding the Unani Doctors or the Ayurvedic Physicians.

MOBILE HEALTH CENTRES

Mobile Health Centres have been opened in the various Community Development Blocks to serve the rural areas.

There are three Mobile Health Centres in each Community Development Block. Bhagalpur district has Mobile Health Centres at Mamalkhi, Parsastdih and Tarechha in Sabour Community Development Block; Dudhari, Kakwara and Bindh in Banka Community Development Block; Sahu Parbatta, Kaluchak and Kharik in Naugachia Development Block; Bhawanipur, Amarpur and Baikalpur in Bihpur Development Block; Dharhara, Saidpur and Dumariya in Gopalpur Development Block; Makdumma, Bharko and Chirrya in Amarpur Development Block; Moehanama, Inarbanan and Baghmari in Katoria Development Block; Shahjadpur, Donradih and Ratanganj in Shahkund Development Block; Ekchari, Sobnathpur and Mathurapur in Colgong Development Block; and lastly Nawada, Maharva and Maghaumi in Rajaun Development Block.

Each Mobile Health Centre of Community Development Block is run by one health worker, one trained *dai* and one servant. As a preventive measure these centres disinfect wells and houses, give cholera inoculations, vaccinations against small-pox, distribute freely skimmed milk powder to the needy and poor public in the area covered by each Health Centre and distribute multi-vitamin tablets free of cost to the needy population. In each mobile centre outdoor patients are treated free of cost. The Medical Officer incharge of the Block attends the mobile centre twice a week and examines the patients and distributes medicines to them.

ACTIVITIES OF THE DISPENSARIES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS OF BHAGALPUR.

Each Community Development Block Dispensary consists of the following staff:—

(1) One Medical Officer, (2) one Sanitary Inspector, (3) one Lady Health Visitor, (4) three Auxiliary Nurses or trained *Dais*. (5) one Auxiliary Health Worker.

The function of these dispensaries is to maintain a satisfactory incidence of health in the rural areas. Disinfection of wells, inoculation and vaccination are some of the preventive measures while the Block Doctor treats the patients at the Block dispensaries.

Figures of eight Block dispensaries given below will give an idea of their working:—

1959-60.

Name of Block.	Total population.	Disinfection of wells.	Inoculation.	Vaccination.
1	2	3	4	5
1. Shahkund	68,364	19,371	43,675	49,251
2. Sabour	70.897	11,196	53,905	2,401
3. Bihpur	92,783	1,042	48,611	3,865
4. Banka	68,578	8,806	51,351	10,892
5. Dumaria	86,787	5,841	48,140	78,839
6. Bounsi	Not available	28,458	22,123	2,079
7. Katoria	56,000	Not available	19,000	2,195
8. Naugachhia	78,617	7,331	Nil	8,112

The Block Medical Officers are incharge of their dispensaries and are held responsible for both the preventive and curative aspects. Besides looking after the health and sanitation work of the area the doctors of the respective block dispensaries treat the patients but at present there is no arrangement for treating indoor patients.

EPIDEMICS AND THEIR CONTROL

Epidemics were a worry to the earlier administrative officers particularly because of the inaccessibility of places of the diseases which generally take an epidemic form in this district. Particular mention has to be made of cholera, small-pox and plague.

The old documents indicate that these diseases have broken out in epidemic form very early in the district. The appearance of cholera in a virulent and epidemic form is recorded in the official reports made on April, 10, 1818. Opium was practically the only remedy of the disease in these days. Government supplied opium to the headman of each village, for distribution in the affected areas.

Regarding small-pox, a letter dated September 6, 1822 of Shri W.A. Chalmers, Magistrate of Bhagalpur, mentions that for several years past, small-pox visited the hilly tracts of the district and

occasioned a great mortality among the inhabitants. Dr. Glass maintained a small vaccine establishment at his own expense, and performed without salary all the duties of a Superintendent of an institution. The benevolent efforts of Dr. Glass to introduce vaccination in the hills were in a great measure frustrated by the difficulty he experienced in procuring persons to go there as native doctors, and the unwillingness of the hill people to submit their children to the operation.

As for Plague, Bubonic Plague made its first appearance in the district in 1901 and took a toll of 8 deaths. During the next nine years there had been annual recurrence and the mortality was 1,518 in 1904 and 2,369 in the next year. Plague appeared in its severest form in 1912 and 1914.

1. *Cholera.*—Cholera broke out in Bhagalpur town in the years 1919-20, 1925-26 and 1926-27. It is seen more or less every year throughout the district, but the incidence of this disease was very high in 1947 and was least in 1949.

The attacks and deaths from cholera in Bhagalpur district from 1947 to 1960 are noted below :—

Years.	Attacks.	Deaths.
1947	3,928	1,743
1948	2,815	1,147
1949	227	84
1950	2,446	963
1951	1,070	329
1952	Not available.	Not available.
1953	Ditto	Ditto.
1954	Ditto	Ditto.
1955	1,086	96
1956-57	1,761	623
1958-59	766	298
1960	527	152

It is apparent from the above figures that prior to 1951 the incidence of cholera attacks and deaths was very high especially in Banka Subdivision. Since the years 1958-59 and 1960 an interim urban and rural public health organisation programme has been launched and there has also been an increase in the public health staff. Mass inoculation and disinfection of wells in greater number have brought down the incidence. At the time of epidemics of cholera vigorous action is taken for mass inoculation and

disinfection of wells. Public health staff and Medical Officers of District Board, Municipality and also Government Dispensaries and Hospitals treat the patients free of cost. Doctors on emergency duties are also deputed by the Health Department. Drugs are distributed free of cost by them. The incidence has now been brought down.

2. *Plague.*—Plague is not now prevalent in this district. It has almost vanished. The district suffered from plague infection from 1900 to 1909. In the year 1909, the mortality was four only. Then infection disappeared and a revival occurred in Bihpur thana area in 1938 and 1939. But the infection was soon controlled. The infection died out and has not appeared in any part of this district since then.

3. *Small-pox.*—Next to cholera the visitation of small-pox to this district a few years back used to be very common and was almost an annual feature. It broke out in 1919-20, 1920-21, 1923-24 and 1927-28 in Bhagalpur. The following statistics from 1947 to 1960 are suggestive :—

Years	Attacks	Deaths
1947	643	53
1948	812	86
1949	906	18
1950	2,324	466
1951	4,231	953
1952	Not available	Not available.
1953	Ditto	Ditto.
1954	Ditto	Ditto.
1955	40	11
1956	167	67
1957	66	27
1958	246	67
1960	68	30

The abovementioned figures indicate that there has been a very considerable decline in the incidence of small-pox. It appears from the above statistics that the incidence of small-pox was very high in 1950 and 1951 and was low in 1957 and 1960. According to medical science small-pox can be completely controlled by vaccination and re-vaccination. But the figure of vaccination and re-vaccination cannot be considered to be the criteria to control this epidemic because the statistics of vaccination are not connected with the cases of attacks. The reason behind it is that one who

has been vaccinated either primary or re-vaccination may have been attacked or even may have died. The separate statistics of primary vaccination and re-vaccination should be co-related to the cases of attack and one should know how many of the vaccinated cases had the attack and how many of such cases ended in fatality. The statistics of mass vaccination and re-vaccination are given below :—

Vaccination

Years	Primary vaccination	Re-vaccination
1947	44,396	2,87,038
1948	29,604	24,339
1949	29,717	26,370
1950	32,720	84,282
1951	27,742	2,09,340
1952	Not available	Not available.
1953	Ditto	Ditto.
1954	Ditto	Ditto.
1955	49,307	2,67,275
1956-57	41,569	2,32,042
1957-58	3,62,255	3,66,270
1958-59	1,46,434	6,20,628
1960	32,333	2,70,001

The only known preventive measure against small-pox, is vaccination. Small-pox was responsible for the bulk of infant mortality. The responsibility for compulsory vaccination of every child born in a city or in a village has been placed on the local bodies concerned, the Municipal Board of Bhagalpur or the District Board as the case may be. The local bodies maintain a staff of trained vaccinators who visit the houses where children are born, and vaccinate them within six months of their birth. All infants are expected to be re-vaccinated after 5 years from the first or primary vaccination. In the year 1957-58 and 1958-59 the percentage of vaccinated people seems to be high. The percentage of cases affected by small-pox was much lower in the years 1957 and 1960. It is only by the implementation of the scheme of mass vaccination that the incidence of small-pox may be brought down. That is the reason why in the year 1952-53 the State Government started a mass vaccination scheme in all the districts of the State to give protection against small-pox to the extent of 80 per cent of the population. The penal provision of the Vaccination Act is, however, not enforced.

GENERAL STANDARD OF HEALTH AS REFLECTED BY STATISTICS

From the perusal of the vital statistics given in the District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur, page 117 it appears that the general health of the people of the district is fairly satisfactory. Its mean annual death-rate was 7.3 per mille, that for the whole State being 25.2 per mille for the quinquennial period ending with 1945.

Byrne in the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur published in 1910 has mentioned that "the healthiest months are February, March and July. In April, May, June, August and September the average death-rate is about 2.25 per mille. In October, December and January it is about 2.5 per mille". Such monthly figures are neither available in the District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur, published in 1956 nor in the Bihar Statistical Handbook published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Bihar. From the local enquiry and the enquiries made from the eminent doctors of Bhagalpur it has been found that the observation of Mr. Byrne still holds good.

After the great influenza of 1918 the incidence of Public Health was satisfactory through the decade 1921—30. Harvests were satisfactory in all years except in 1921 when the rice crop was below the average. The 1931 Census disclosed 15.2 per cent increase in population of the district. The largest increase was recorded in Banka subdivision.

In 1931—40 decade, Public Health remained satisfactory throughout, though there were mild epidemics in 1931, 1934 and 1935. The 1931 Census recorded an increase of 14.3 per cent in population. Public health continued to be satisfactory during the last decade (1951). The population recorded an increase of 12.3 per cent from the preceding decade.*

In Sadar subdivision the flood-affected areas are unhealthy. They fall under Bihpur Police Station, Gopalpur Police Station. In Banka subdivision, some areas like Chanan and Katoria which are full of forests, may be said as unhealthy areas of this district.

The recurrence of flood makes the flood-affected areas unhealthy for the fact that flood brings poverty to the masses which leads to malnutrition and may be considered as one of the best fields for the growth of any kind of disease. Secondly, the stagnation of flood water in ditches, etc., even after the flood gives a breeding ground for the mosquitoes causing malarial fever in the masses. Secondly the general health condition of the area north of the Ganga, is not so good because of the unfavourable meteorological condition.

*Census of India—1951—Vol. V—Bihar—Part I Report (pages 38-39).

Besides a salubrious climate the people are also trying to live a healthy life irrespective of their social status and vocations. Men have started thinking both individually and conjointly that healthy surroundings make people healthy, and that proper nutrition for body and soul is the principal factor for a healthy life. But they always cannot do so because of poverty.

These ideas culminated in the inception in the district of organisations like Gram Panchayats, Co-operative Societies, Gramudyogs, Sarvodaya Schemes, Children's Physical Culture Clubs, and arrangements to afford necessary medical and hygienic protections and other amenities to the industrial workers.

The Gram Panchayats are provided with Gram Sewaks who are specially trained in the elementary knowledge of health-hygiene and physical culture, which they inculcate amongst the villagers.

The Co-operative Societies particularly look after and extend necessary help in the improvement of agriculture and livestock of the village which are so closely related with the raising of the nutritional standard of the food intake of a locality.

The Gramudyog amongst other activities also deal in production of pure and wholesome food articles like whole rice, *chakki* made flour, *Ghani* made mustard oil, etc., which go a great way in the improvement of people's health.

To protect the industrial workers Government have enforced regulations for the proper safety of these workers and for their health. Government have also insisted for making provisions for them in respective areas for adequate accommodation, recreation, limitation of working hours, labour welfare centres, etc. Beyond these the social medicine is yet unknown in this district.

Important Causes of Mortality

The Bhagalpur District Gazetteer of 1911 written by Mr. Byrne, I.C.S., mentions "The greatest mortality in every year occurs in children under one year, next in children from 1 to 5 years. In children from 5 to 10 years and youths from 10 to 20 years the mortality is about the same. The mortality from 20 to 30 years increases; it falls slightly from 30 to 40 years and still more from 40 to 50 and 50 to 60 years, after which it increases a little. Briefly the first year of life is the most dangerous and this danger continues, though it gradually lessens, up to the age of ten years. The next decade is the least dangerous. Then there is an increase in danger up to the age of forty years after which there is a progressive fall, decade by decade. At every age, more males die than females, the present annual means being 39.41 males and 32.61 females per mille".

Mr. Byrne's observations substantially still apply. The higher incidence of mortality is confined to the earlier age-group from 1 to 5 years. This is partially due to the malignity of the parents and particularly the bad health of the mother. Fruit is almost scarce in the rural areas and if available at all the price is prohibitive and far out of the reach of the common man. The efforts of the Child Welfare and Maternity Centre are almost like a drop in the ocean and such centres are so far confined to a few urban areas. Primary vaccination has still to become universal and as mentioned before the penal section of the Vaccination Act for refusing or not getting primary vaccination done is not being imposed. Fevers, digestive troubles, rickets, bad liver are some of the very common ailments from which children suffer and ultimately die. Unless the living conditions improve and they can only improve if the common man has a better income, and more ideas of public health and sanitation, there is not much help for a decline of the rate of mortality in children. It is true that in the recent years through the efforts of W.H.O. and other bodies, the State Government and the Centre, there has been some improvement in child mortality but even now the rate is apparently high.

Mr. Byrne's observation regarding the incidence of mortality at the adult age and beyond has, however, slightly changed. On the average the expectation of life has gone up. Use of antibiotics and various other injectules and vitamin pills has partially helped this. Coming to the important causes of mortality fever accounts for about 60 per cent of the reported deaths. Cholera and small-pox occur in the form of localised epidemics, the virulence of which varies greatly, almost every year from April to June and from August to October. The mortality from cholera was very high prior to 1951. Cholera in Bhagalpur district is prevalent from April to June, when the water supply never very satisfactory, begins to fail. Not only this but the wells of the mahallas in occupation of the poorer people are in an unsatisfactory condition. Again cholera may break out from July to the end of the year chiefly commencing with the consumption of the products of the *Makai* crop, indifferently cooked.

The incidence of mortality from small-pox has, however, declined. The incidence of small-pox was every high in 1950 and 1951 and was low in 1957 and 1960. The mortality from small-pox was very high prior to 1950 but now it is on the wane.

Other bowel complaints such as dysentery and diarrhoea are still very common and severe. The mortality figures for epidemics of cholera are enormously increased by the inclusion of many cases of Dysentery and Diarrhoea.

Malaria and Anti-Malaria Measures

Earlier the incidence of Malaria was very high in this district. The western end of the town is rather low-lying, and during the

rains large areas are flooded. When the river begins to fall, these localities are malarious. Secondly we can say that this was the common disease more frequent at flood-affected areas and forest areas. About 70 per cent of the total deaths was reported under fevers, and of those 40 per cent occurred from malaria. On an investigation it appears that on the average about 10,000 cases of Malaria are treated every year in the hospitals and dispensaries. It is said that malaria is more endemic in North Bhagalpur.

The following statistics collected from Anti-Malaria Control Office at Bhagalpur are of interest so far malarial fever is concerned :—

Years.		Number of patients treated.	Number of patients died.
1952 ..	..	..	4,880
1953 ..	..	..	2,443
1954 ..	..	..	1,525
1955 ..	..	16,515	5,163
1956 ..	..	13,831	4,512
1957 ..	..	6,959	4,863
1958 ..	..	..	..
1959-60 ..	..	2,654	..

When we go through the above statistics, i.e., number of patients treated, number of patients dead, spraying data, number of child examined for spleen, number of child examined for parasite, number of infants examined for parasite, it is clear that there has been a considerable decline as compared to 1955. This decrease was the result of National Malaria Control Programme which was started in the Bhagalpur district. According to this programme, Anti-Malaria Control units and sub-units were started at different places in this district. There are two units, one in Bhagalpur town and other at Banka and 11 sub-units in Block Development area. Prior to the launching of this programme the usual anti-malaria drugs through public health staff posted at various police stations and also through the Medical Officers of the Government and the District Board Dispensaries used to be distributed. With the launching of Malaria Control Programme, spraying of D. D. T. in houses and cattle sheds was also taken up. The figures of 1959-60 indicate that about 2,62,336 houses and cattle sheds were sprayed. It means that the working of Malaria Department is quite satisfactory and that is the reason why this disease is almost controlled.

All the measures taken together have helped to reduce the incidence of malaria to a considerable extent and at present in

addition to the Malaria Control unit, 4 sub-units are functioning in Banka, Rajaun, Colgong and Amarpur. Each sub-unit is under the charge of Anti-Malaria Officer. Hence in the Bhagalpur district one Divisional Malaria Officer, one District Malaria Officer and nine Assistant Malaria Officers have been posted to check this disease.

Sanitary Measures taken during Baunsi Fair

Baunsi, 26 miles from Bhagalpur town is in Banka subdivision. A fair is held there on the occasion of *Paus Sankranti*, i.e., in the month of January of every year. Baunsi fair is one of the most important fairs in Bihar. It lasts for about a week and nearly one lac of people from the district and outside visit the fair. The *mela* area is usually divided into several sections.

The District Medical Officer of Public Health, Bhagalpur and his staff have the responsibility of looking after the sanitation of the area. The large influx of people naturally exposes the area to cholera and other epidemics.

The Medical Officer, Community Project, Baunsi, and the Assistant Health Officer, Banka, have to keep vigilant eyes under the guidance of the District Medical Officer of Health, Bhagalpur.

As there is a permanent dispensary at Baunsi, close to the *mela* area there is no need to establish a temporary dispensary. However, a first aid camp is run by a Medical Officer with a small staff. Inoculations and vaccinations to prevent cholera and pox respectively are given. Sweepers are engaged to put the *mela* area clean. Two Sanitary Inspectors deputed are held responsible for the sanitation, viz., scavenging and sweeping roads, lanes, burning the refuse, attending to lavatories and urinals etc. Adequate number of lavatories and urinals are set up.

Each Sanitary Inspector is provided with one Health Inspector, one Health Assistant, two disinfectors and sweepers according to requirement.

All the streams, tanks, ponds, wells in and around the *mela* are disinfected. Care is taken to control the shops and the food sold. They are required to take a license and their shops are frequently inspected.

Homoeopathic System

It appears that near about 1892 this system of medical treatment was introduced in the district first at Sultangunj. The system slowly spread both in the urban and rural areas. It is roughly

estimated that there are about 150 qualified Homoeopath doctors throughout the district. The number of unqualified men practising Homoeopathy is quite large and some of them have the reputation of being good doctors. Homeo medicines being much cheaper than the medicines of other systems, this system has become quite popular.

A fee charged by experienced Homoeopath doctors varies from rupee one to rupees two or slightly more including the cost of medicines. The first Homoeopathy teaching institution was started in 1919 in Bhagalpur. This institution was, however, closed near about 1935. Another institution known as D. N. Homoeopathy Medical College was started in 1925 but was closed down within two years. At present there is one K. N. H. Medical College which teaches Homoeopathy to students. It is located at Bhikhanpur. There is a charitable dispensary attached to this Medical College. This is subsidised by the L. S.-G. Department. Practising Homoeopath doctors in the rural areas are subsidised by the L. S.-G. Department and the District Board for distribution of free medicines to the poor. There are such doctors in 1960 scattered all over the district. There is a Homoeopathy Medical Association in the district. The President of this Association had mentioned that the practice of Homoeopathy by quacks who do not hesitate to combine injections etc. under Allopathy System has led to the deterioration of the cause of Homoeopathy. The District Association has a working committee with a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 12 members.

AYURVEDIC SYSTEM

The Bhagalpur District Gazetteer of 1911 written by Mr. Byrne, I.C.S., mentions "The Ayurvedic system of medicine is held in the greater esteem, not so much from religious principles as from the idea that the more drastic operation of European medicines is not so suited to the more delicate Indian constitution". This system of treatment is very much prevalent in this district.

By the untiring endeavour of the Vaidya Sammelan, "Shree Jatindra Narain Astanga Ayurveda College" was opened by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of Indian Union, on the 20th May, 1956, where all the seven departments of Ayurveda, viz. (1) Surgery, (2) Diseases of eye-ear-nose-throat, (3) Medicine, (4) Midwifery and Gynaecology, (5) Diseases of the children, (6) Toxicology and Medical Jurisprudence, and (7) Science of rejuvenation are being taught thoroughly. It is guided by the Ayurvedic Board of the State Government of Bihar. Since 1948 the College is receiving the Government aid annually. In the year 1959-60 the Municipality of Bhagalpur, contributed Rs. 1,200 to college and Rs. 2,000 to the Hospital. The District Board of Bhagalpur contributed Rs. 500 annually to the Hospital. The State Government

also through their L. S.-G. and Health Departments have given Rs. 15,000 to college and Rs. 15,000 to hospital per annum. Besides the college gets grants from the public of Bhagalpur by means of subscription and donation. The college has seats for 54 students including one female. The prescribed least qualification for admission is Matriculation and the students have to pay Rs. 3 in 1st year, Rs. 4 in 2nd and 3rd year and Rs. 5 in 4th and final year for tuition fee per mensem.

Through aid of the State Government a building has been constructed. There is also one hostel to accommodate the students. There is a library.

It is roughly estimated that there are about 600 qualified Ayurvedic doctors throughout the district. The number of unqualified men practising Ayurvedic is, unfortunately, quite large and some of them have been successful physicians. There is a District Vaidya Association in the district. The District Association has a working committee with a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 14 members.

AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL

The Ayurvedic Hospital of Bhagalpur is attached to the Ayurvedic College at Nathnagar. The following statistics are important to indicate the number of treated outdoor and indoor patients. The hospital has provided 35 indoor beds for patients out of which 24 for males and 11 for females and the patients are given meal which cost the authorities Re. 0-14-0 each patient per day. The following statistics are of interest :—

Years.	Outdoor patients treated.	Indoor patients treated.	Patients dead.
1952-53	59,285	97	Nil.
1953-54	63,212	145	Nil.
1954-55	76,114	121	Nil.
1955-56	78,291	162	Nil.
1956-57	73,552	121	Nil.
1957-58	80,015	211	Nil.
1958-59	57,358	193	Nil.
1959-60	65,003	234	4

COMMON INDIGENOUS HERBS

It is understood that a large number of herbs used for *kabiraji* system of medicine are found in this district. Hence with these medical organisations and their different methods of treatment, the common

herbs used by the common people to heal some types of diseases also require special mention.

(*a*) *Chiraita.*—Commonly used in the form of decoction for the treatment of fever, as an appetiser, liver stimulant and a blood purifier.

(*b*) *Neem.*—The decoction of *neem* leaves is used for washing wounds and ulcer. Fresh leaves are taken by mouth for purification of blood. *Neem* oil is used as an antiseptic oil and in treatment of scabies. The *neem* oil is also rubbed in hair.

(*c*) *Trifala.*—Consists of powders derived from the fruits of *Harrey*, *Bahera* and *Amla* in equal quantities. It is used as laxative and as a general tonic. The cold extract of *Trifala* is used for washing eyes as a general tonic to eye.

(*d*) *Jayfal.*—This is triturated into paste and usually given to infants in cold coryza, cough and slight fever.

(*e*) *Anantmul.*—The decoction of this is used as a blood purifier in skin diseases.

(*f*) *Root of Kanail flower.*—The flower grows in jungles and by the side of railway lines. It is red in colour. The root is triturated into paste and is applied over in hypogastrium in case of retention of urine.

(*g*) *Ghee-Kumar.*—It is also used for the purpose for which root of *Kanail* flower is used.

(*h*) *Tusli leaves.*—Its decoction is used for the treatment of common cold and coryza.

(*i*) *Gurich.*—It used for the treatment of dysentery.

(*j*) *Sanna leaf.*—It is used as a purgative.

(*k*) *Banslochan.*—It is used as a general tonic.

(*l*) *Akwan and pila Kanail.*—This is used in the peparation of Abortion sticks and its paste in combination with *Dhatura* and *opium* is used as counter-irritant.

(*m*) *Safgol.*—This is used as general tonic and for the treatment of dysentery.

(*n*) *Opium.*—This is used in small quantity orally to produce sleep and is used in the form of paste as counter-irritant.

It is a fact that in spite of so many Allopathic hospitals and dispensaries in the district, the people have good faith in

Ayurvedic system of medicine. It was observed that the outdoor section of hospital has a daily attendance of about 150 persons. The number of patients treated and patients' death in indoor beds indicates that generally almost all the patients are being cured because the figure of death rate prior to 1959-60 was almost nil. The Ayurvedic hospital and the system of treatment are popular.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

To provide better care and medical attention to mothers in both pre-natal and post-natal stages and also to children from their birth up to certain age, so far 4 maternity and child welfare centres have been started in this district. Out of these four welfare centres, two, namely "Manmohini Nareshnandini Maternity and Child Welfare Centre" and "Shri Naraini Moti Matri Seva Sadan" are run by local association. The former is given some lumpsum grant from the State Government but the latter is run by the Marwaris. The name of the founder of the latter centre was the late Rai *Bahadur Motilal Dhandhania*. The former centre is subsidised by Bihar Maternity and Child Welfare Society. It has six indoor beds. Besides, two centres are run by State Government, one is at Sabour and the other is at Banka. In addition to these centres, the State Government has sanctioned one more centre at Naugachhia but it is not functioning. At present all these centres are under the supervision of the Senior Executive Medical Officer who is also known as the Civil Surgeon.

These centres are concerned with the attendance of children, attendance of expecting and nursing mothers, distribution of milk powder free of cost to the children and baths given to the children and their mothers. They also organise baby shows at intervals and distribution of prizes to the babies at different places during the year. These centres are increasingly becoming popular and very helpful to mothers and children both.

Family Planning Centres

Family planning is one of the well established health programmes in many other countries and has been adopted in India to bring down the ever-growing population. The problem has been accentuated by scarcity of food, unemployment and other kindred problems. It has been computed that in India there is an annual increase of five millions in the population without a proportionate increase in any of the essential articles of food. The country is not producing enough food for its existing population. Birth control is one of the first conditions of their own and the country's welfare. Physiological, chemical and mechanical methods of contraception have to be accepted as part of the means, however, imperfect and unpleasant for family planning. The Government both at the Centre and the State level have realised their duty in this matter and the policy has been clearly adopted and is being propagated by all possible means.

There are two family planning centres in Bhagalpur, one attached to Sadar hospital, Bhagalpur, another attached to sub-divisional hospital, Banka. The Banka family planning centre has three sub-centres in rural areas.

The centre at Sadar Hospital, Bhagalpur is run by two part-time Medical Officers who advise the public on the utility of family planning. At Banka there is one lady health visitor and the rural centres are run by three trained *dais*.

FAMILY PLANNING WORK DONE AT BHAGALPUR.

Year.		(Female) Tube-ligation.	(Male) Vasec-tomy.	No. of cases attending (Male and Female).	No. of persons visited at home.	Contraceptive supplied by the clinic.
1		2	3	4	5	6
1958	..	48	3	219	196	Nil
1959	..	54	6	563	935	566
1960	..	52	4	1,066	2,388	1,066

The above figure indicates that the work of family planning is satisfactory. Prior to 1958 there was no record to show the activity of family planning but the figure of 1960 clearly shows that the people have good faith in the operation of family planning. The number of cases attending the clinic is fast increasing by the year 1960.

The figure in column 4 is the number of the patients who attended the clinic for examination and advice.

The figure in column 5 means that the Lady Health Visitor visits the houses of the patients to propagate the necessity of family planning and to give medical instructions if required.

Nurses' Training Centre

There is one school for the training of the auxiliary nurses in the premises of Sadar Hospital, Bhagalpur run by the State Government. It has seats for 90 trainees. The trainees are granted a stipend, messing and uniform allowance during the training. The prescribed least qualification is middle pass only. The State Government has constructed one building for them.

There is a great dearth of qualified nurses or Lady Health Visitors and there will be no unemployment for them in the near future. Unfortunately, there is dearth of suitable candidates who stick to the end of the course.

Training of Compounders, Dressers and *Dais*

Prior to 1957 a course of training was imparted to apprentice compounders but now the training to compounders has been closed

and has been shifted to Patna General Hospital. Training in elementary midwifery is given to *Dais* (Midwives) in the Sadar Hospital, Bhagalpur. The *Dais* are granted stipend i.e., the sum of Rs. 30 per mensem by the Government during the apprenticeship. The training is imparted under U.N.I.C.E.F. Scheme for a period of six months. At present the centre has seats for 18 trainees. They are given no facility for lodging, uniform allowance, etc. and they live outside the premises of the hospital. They come from their own residence to take training. The Lady Doctor, Staff Nurse and the Lady Health Visitor have to give them training.

Besides, there is also a training centre for dressers in the premises of Sadar Hospital, Bhagalpur and Banka and has seats for 18 trainees. The training is imparted for a period of six months. They are also not given any sort of stipend. They also live outside and come to take training. The only facility given to them is that they have not to pay any thing for admission. One doctor and 2 senior compounders have been deputed to give them training.

Activity of the Indian Medical Association, Bhagalpur Branch.

In the year 1928 a separate unit of the Indian Medical Association was started at Bhagalpur named as the Bhagalpur Branch. Now the strength of the members of the Bhagalpur Branch of the Indian Medical Association has increased to 100 out of which 46 members are from local area, 44 members from rural area and 10 are non-members who only attend the conference. It has its own building on a land granted by Municipality. The building has not yet been fully completed. The members belonging to urban area have to pay Rs. 30 per annum and the rural members have to pay Rs. 12 annually. Besides, the association is given grants from Bihar Health Committee, Bhagalpur Municipality, District Board, Commissioner's discretionary grant, etc.

The members of the Bhagalpur Branch of the Indian Medical Association hold medical conference annually in the month of March. They deliver lectures on medical problems. No research is done.

A health week is also observed usually in the month of March where stress is given for examination of the school boys and girls, mass inoculation, etc. Health exhibitions and baby-shows are held and popular lectures are delivered. Sports and competitions are held.

The members help at times of emergencies like outbreak of cholera, small-pox, etc. It is quite clear from the report on health week that in the year 1960 about 5,000 persons were vaccinated.

Urban Sanitation

Arrangements for sanitation in the town are in the hands of the municipal bodies or notified area committees. The main town is Bhagalpur while the other townships are Colgong and Banka.

Bhagalpur city has been expanding enormously and the municipal arrangement for sanitation is proving inadequate (1960). The city has been growing in a lopsided manner and even lanes and bye-lanes are now full of *pucca* houses interspersed with slums. Along with some other cities and towns in Bihar, Bhagalpur is also a pathological case where there has not been any planned utilization of the available land within the city or in the umland. New areas are being developed even without any attention to communication or drainage facilities. The number of old type latrines from where night-soil has to be cleared by manual process still predominates. Mechanised vehicles, a few of which the municipality has got can not cope with the problem of the removal of refuse or garbage from the street sides or corners and unseemly sights of heap of garbage is quite common. The problem of sanitation is accentuated by the fact that there is a sad lack of civic sense. The city has no proper covered sewerage system and *katcha* drains with no proper level form breeding ground of diseases. The municipality and the executive Government do not insist on the implementation of the lanes and bye-lanes and cut fruits often in a rotten condition and eatables are exposed and sold by the side of the drains. Cheap wayside restaurants and hotels selling snacks and other eatables are hardly controlled.

Bhagalpur municipality has an area of 11.09 square miles consisting of 1,35,000 souls (1951) and the municipality has only 279 scavengers which are an extremely inadequate strength. The administrative staff consisting of one Health Officer, 4 Sanitary Inspectors and two Health Disinfectors is also inadequate. A very small percentage of houses has got modern sanitary arrangements.

It has been estimated that an underground sewerage system for Bhagalpur municipality area will cost about Rs. 1 crore. The matter is under investigation but it is not known when the arrangement will be implemented. An Improvement Trust for Bhagalpur is also under contemplation. Without an extremely heavy expenditure and the implementation of a well thoughtout and comprehensive scheme the sanitation of Bhagalpur city is not likely to be improved.

Colgong has got a Municipality while Banka is served by Notified Area Committee. These local bodies look after the local sanitation problems. They are also handicapped for funds and a lack of civic sense in the people. The problems at these places are also of the same pattern as in Bhagalpur city.

Water Supply

The major part of the town has got pipe water supply. Pipe water supply was first introduced in the city in 1888 mostly out of the funds donated by the gentries of the town. The orignal source of supply was the river Ganga and pumping used to be done by

means of steam driven pumps. Subsequently the steam driven pumps were replaced by oil driven pumps. In 1929, 400 feet deep tube-wells were sunk in different parts of the town. Due to the exorbitant growth of the population, shifting of the Ganga away from the head works and the dwindling yield from the intake wells and the old tube-wells, a scheme was sanctioned for reorganisation and renovation of the entire town water supply. The scheme was implemented in 1959.

Now-a-days the water supply is distributed to Bhagalpur town by three zones (1) Eastern and Central zone, (2) Southern zone and (3) Western zone. Due to only partial success of the four ordinary tube-wells and two deep tube-wells the water supply could not be improved and balanced as expected, and there is still inadequacy of water supply in some localities particularly in the central zone of Bhagalpur more so due to the undulation of ground level.

Under Bhagalpur Water Supply Reorganisation Scheme two 5″ tube-wells and three 8″ tube-wells about 600′ deep in Nathnagar (Western Zone), and three such 8″ tube-wells in Ishakchak and Mirjanhat (Southern zone) area and one 16″ deep tube-well about 500′ deep in the Lajpat Park (Central zone) have been constructed during 1959-60.

A more detailed coverage on water-supply to Bhagalpur has been given in the text on Local Self-Government.

Rural Sanitation

The rural areas of the district have luckily got extensive cultivation lands near about the villages. The pattern of the location of the villages is the same here as in the other districts of Bihar. The homestead lands and the houses of the villagers are clustered together while the cultivation lands or the lands for public use belonging to the village are just outside the *dih* or habitable area. This presupposes a rather convenient arrangement for the villagers particularly when each household has not got a proper lavatory. Usually the well-to-do villager's house has got a patch of enclosed land which serves for the conveniences of the women folk. *Katcha* built latrines known *Sandas* are usually built there. Others use the cultivation lands or secluded spots for their conveniences

The old-type houses in the rural areas have usually very little of ventilation. Cow-dung and other garbage matters are thrown just in front of the village which is one of the important causes of mosquitoes.

An average village in the rural area has not got proper roads or lanes. Usually there are cart tracks up to the houses of the well-to-do persons. Villagers usually keep clean the portion of the

path just in front of the house and often besmear that portion of the path with cow-dung. But unfortunately there are many unsocial people who would throw out refuse of the house-hold at any place or let out the kitchen or bath water on the path-way. Small *pools* of dirty water are often seen and during the rainy season the *pools* serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies.

Regarding water-supply almost every village has got wells for the supply of drinking and bath water. But the villagers often abuse the water by washing cattle by the side of the well which practice leads to small depressions and water *pools* which are very insanitary and breed mosquitoes and flies. The villagers are now being told to sink manure pits to make their own composts and the propagation of this idea has helped the sanitation problem of the villages to some extent.

The Public Health Engineering Department of Bhagalpur has sunk 850 shallow tube-wells from 1953 to 1959. Shallow tube-wells are also being provided in the *Harijan tolas* of the villages. Some improvements, no doubt, have been made in this direction where Block Development Centres are functioning, but their number is few and far between. The Gram Panchayats in the villages have also to look after the rural sanitation. The wells of the villages and the water-pools are sprayed with D D. T.

The responsibility of maintaining rural sanitation is technically under the charge of the District Board. The problem is, however, such that the District Board can only take up the bigger problems of water-supply, vaccination, epidemic measures, etc. The village problems of sanitation are essentially the problem of the villagers and the Board can only render some assistance to them by providing wells or by making approach roads, etc. It is unfortunate that every village in the district has not yet got a proper approach road or a connecting link to the nearest main artery. In the chapter under Local Self-Government the functions of the District Board so far as rural sanitation is concerned have been covered.

CHAPTER XIV

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

LABOUR WELFARE

The labourers of the district may broadly be divided into three categories, namely, industrial, agricultural and commercial. The labourers in this district as in other parts ot the State are not absolutely categorised excepting the technical labour employed in industrial zones. Thus an agricultural labourer may change his occupation into that of a cartman or even take up a job in oil mill when he has no employment in the field. In this condition of fluidity, there cannot be any definite category or any precise population of the labourers under different categories. But the broad categories of industrial, agricultural and commercial may be accepted for general purposes.

The main industries of the district have been described elsewhere. The industries and the factories of silk, printing press, flour mills, dairy farm, etc., absorb about 4,000 labourers. The mills and factories are mostly located at Bhagalpur, Nathnagar, Sultanganj, Colgong and Naugachia. The silk industries in Nathnagar and Bhagalpur require particular mention as Bhagalpur silk has held its own for centuries and recently there has been a spurt of export of Bhagalpur silk to the States and other parts of the world. Although mostly still in the stage of cottage industry, there are some silk factories with power-looms where the later processes of preparing the silk are carried ont according to the modern technical methods. The production is mostly confined to certain families that have been in this work for generations and hence there has been a pool of efficiency and tradition.

Monthly and piece rate systems are usually prevalent in these mills. A common worker's wages is approximate to near about Rs. 2 per day which cannot be called to be satisfactory in proportion to the work that is realised.

The other industries employing labourers are rice, oil, flour and pulse mills. These mills are located at Bhagalpur Sadar, Nathnagar, Sultanganj, Colgong and Pirpainty. The three main mills of Sultanganj are namely Shree Shiva Parvati Dal and Rice Mill Sultanganj Oil Mill and Suraj Oil Mill. The average wages of a mill worker are from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per day. Among the main mills, there are three at Sultanganj, about ten in Bhagalpur and one at Barahat.

Welfare measures for the labour employed in silk industries or in these mills cannot be said to be very satisfactory. The labourers

have the misfortune of seasonal unemployment which is not paid for. The number of employees of the individual units being small, there are hardly any housing or other social amenities. Medical relief provided for is very nominal. It is unfortunate that even the Labour Department has not yet started any Employment State Insurance Hospitals or Dispensaries in any of the towns in Bhagalpur district.

The Bihar State Road Transport Corporation, Bhagalpur Division, employs about 500 workmen within the district. Many of the employees have frequently to move out almost every day. The welfare measures provided are meagre and consist of a canteen at Tilkamanjhi and the bare necessity of a rest room or drinking water arrangements. Housing, medical and social amenities provided are practically nil or extremely poor.

So far as agricultural labourers are concerned, the population of landless labourers in the district is roughly calculated to be about 12,000. Out of this category about 3,000 are attached labourers and the rest are what may be described as casual labourers. There is no statutory obligation on the agricultural labourers to be static and extreme mobility is the main characteristic. The five Labour Inspectors in the district posted at Bhagalpur Sadar, Banka, Colgong, Naugachia and Belhar have been able to do very little to see to the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, for the agricultural labourers. The adult labourers have to work for 9 hours and the children also for almost the same time. The wages are not fixed and it varies from Re. 1 to Rs. 1-8-0 per day. At the time of the harvest, the labourer is also given one bundle of paddy out of 16 bundles of paddy made ready by the labourer. At the time of harvest of maize and paddy, about 2,000 agricultural labourers migrate to Naugachia, Bihpur and Sultanganj from other places of South Bihar.

Recently, an Union of the agricultural labourers known as the Bhagalpur *Zila Khet Mazdoor Sabha* has been registered with about 500 membership and affiliated to All India Trade Union Congress. The registration was done only on 1st March 1961 with the objective to see to the welfare of the agricultural labourers. There are hardly any welfare measures taken by the State or by the employer for the agricultural labourers. As a matter of fact, not much of welfare measures are necessary as most of the agricultural labourers are drawn from the villages in the neighbourhood and they go back to their residences after the day's work. It is only the migrating labour that have to face certain difficulties so far as housing is concerned but usually their employers are large scale cultivators and they give a roofing to the migratory labourers employed.

So far as the labourers under the category of commercial is concerned, it is roughly calculated to be about 600. They are

engaged in commercial sector such as grain-gola, *pan*, *biri*, cloth shops, hotels, tea and sweetmeat shops and other shops that sell consumers' goods etc. According to the Bihar Shop Establishment Act, 1953, the shops have to be registered. The commercial sector labourers are mostly at Bhagalpur Sadar, Sultanganj, Banka, Nathnagar, Colgong and Naugachia. They have a weekly Sunday and work for a fixed period of time. At the State Level the Labour Department under a Secretary and Commissioner look after the Welfare measures and the problems of the labour population. At Bhagalpur there is an Assistant Labour Commissioner for the Bhagalpur Division. He is assisted by a Superintendent of Labour and a Labour Officer who are also conciliation officers under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Bihar Shops and Establishments Act, 1953 is enforced in the following places in the district of Bhagalpur :—

(*a*) Bhagalpur.

(*b*) Colgong Notified Area.

(*c*) Naugachia.

(*d*) Banka Notified Area

(*e*) Sultanganj Notified Area.

For the enforcement of this Act, two Labour Officres have been posted with headquarters at Bhagalpur. They have been vested with the powers of Inspecting Officors under the Act. The employers are required to maintain registers prescribed under the Act and submit annual reports and returns in respect of wages, employment and other matters to the Chief Inspecting Officer, Bihar. The Act provides for working hours, weekly rest, annual leave with wages, protection of employees against illegal fines and deduction, discharge and dismissal, etc.

At the District level there is a gazetted Labour Welfare Officer with his headquarters at Bhagalpur since 1955. The functions of the Labour Welfare Officer are multifarious. He is the Conciliation Officer for the district under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, in which capacity he tries to bring about an amicable settlement of any dispute between the employers and the employees of industrial establishment. As the Inspecting Officer, he has to see that the various Acts like the Bihar Shops and Establishment Act, 1953, etc., are implemented. He is responsible for seeing to the registration of all the shops covered by the Act. He has to enforce the provisions of the Act regarding the hours (8 hours), weekly rest (one day), annual leave with wages (one day for 20 days), payment of wages in time according to the terms of the employment, protection of the employees against illegal fines and deductions, discharge and dismissal. etc. The employers have to maintain a number of prescribed registers and submit reports regarding the workings of their establishments to the Labour Officer.

Some of the industrial establishments are registered under the Factories Acts and are liable to be regularly inspected by the Inspectorate under the Chief Inspector of Factories in Bihar. The establishments registered under the Factories Act have also to maintain a number of registers and submit reports and returns from time to time regarding their workings. The Factory Inspectors have also responsiblity so far as the disputes are conerned. There is an Industrial Tribunal for the State where major disputes are taken.

The Conciliation Officers intervene in the disputes as and when it is raised by the workers. They try to bring about mutual settlements through their conciliatary efforts. When no settlement is reached and the parties do not show any inclination to mutually settle the disputes, a report is submitted to Government for reference to the Labour Court or the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication.

There is a Labour Welfare Centre at Khanjharpur in Bhagalpur town maintained by the Labour Department, since November, 1960. The Labour Welfare Officer is in charge of the centre. The centre provides certain social, cultural and physical amenities for the workers. The daily attendance at the centre is about 100 which cannot be said to be a good response.

There is a library, a recreation centre with arrangements for indoor games and various kinds of outdoor sports. There is a handicraft centre through which training in handicraft is given to the female workers. There is an Assistant Lady Welfare Officer in charge of its section. About 30 girls were found to be taking training in this section. The number is definitely poor. There are no Employees State Insurance Hospitals or Dispensaries as mentioned before. There is a small dispensary at the centre in Bhagalpur where a Lady Health Visitor distributes certain patent medicines to the labourers. This is an extremely inadequate arrangement for the workers.

It cannot, however, be said that the District Labour Officer and the Inspectorate under the Factories Act have been able to do much for the amelioration of the physical or social conditions of the labourers.

The State Government have since the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan sanctioned grants to the employers as well as to the workers' organisations for establishing Voluntary Welfare Centres. A sum of Rs. 4,000 is given as subsidy towards the construction of building. The workers and employers are also expected to contribute for purchase of equipments and for meeting the remaining expenditure towards the construction of the buildings. Their response has not been as expected. The State Government have also evolved a scheme for constituting a Voluntary Labour Welfare

Fund.. According to this scheme, the management is expected to contribute rupee one per worker in the first year of the scheme. In subsequent years besides the employers, the workers are also expected to contribute. This scheme has also not evoked the response as was expected.

The overall picture of the welfare measures for the labourers of the district under the three broad categories, namely, industrial, agricultural and commercial shows that while on the one hand, the labourers are not well organised and are even carping in the demands and not always fully alive to their obligations, the employers are also not very keen to provide social amenities to them unless forced by the Government. The Labour Welfare Department is comparatively a new institution so far as the Government is concerned and so far not much strictness has been shown in enforcing the welfare measures. The problem is much too vast than what one Labour Officer or a Factory Inspector can do. Luckily most of the industrial projects are comparatively small in their scope and do not employ a large labour. Their workers are mostly drawn from the towns where the industries are located or from the villages in the neighbourhood. The commercial labourers are almost all residents of the urban areas where such concerns are located. As mentioned before the agricultural population both mobile and non-mobile are not seriously confronted with housing question. The other amenities for their education, medical, etc., are rather meagre as already pointed out.

Some of the features of the labour force in the Bhagalpur district may be indicated and are common to other parts of the State as well. The labour force is made up of persons between the ages of 16 and 60. As much as 95 per cent of the labour force is rural and the agricultural labour families contribute to a substantial part of the rural labour force. These include a class of "attached labourers" with remarkably little inclination to seek wage employment and do not possess much freedom to move to economic opportunities.

The recent Techno-Economic Survey of Bihar conducted by the National Council of Applied Research has given in their report (1955) the conclusion that "Agricultural employment is available to male workers for only 167 days in a year and female workers on an average of 181 days. Non-agricultural employment is available to male workers for 33 days and it is mostly found in rice pounding, flour grinding, fuel splitting, building trade, railway stations, mines and factories". Regarding urban employment this report mentions that "a part of the urban labour force, specially in the industrial sector, is made of migrants from other States, their proportion rises with the more specialised skills". In Bhagalpur district this part of the urban labour force from migrants from other States is extremely small.

The report particularly mentions about the incidence of absenteeism in Bihar labour because workers tend to return to villages during the agricultural seasons. This affects adversely the productive efficiency of industrial units. Further, because industrialism is relatively new to the State, labour "pools" with concentration of industrial workers have not come into existence. Hence despite the vast resources of employable labour, there is a scarcity of skilled and semi-skilled workers. On the other hand, the Survery report mentions about the hard working nature of even the under-skilled Bihari worker. Regarding trade unionism the Survey mentions that the Labour Department of the Government of Bihar and the tripartite Labour Advisory Board have contributed appreciably to tho industrial relations. Trade unionism has been growing steadily, but as in every other fronts in the country, it is upset with political degenerated rivalries. It was mentioned that "Bihar's Trade Unionism shares with the country the need for basic reorganisation aimed at serving the economic interest of the workers more constructively".

Regarding wages the Survey came to the conclusion that the annual average earnings in agriculture in Bihar are estimated to be at Rs. 210 and for the lowest paid in the industries at Rs. 445. Thus the difference in wages is an inducement for labour to move from agriculture to industries. The average level of annual earnings of agricultural workers in agricultural and non-agricultural operations together is lower in Bihar (Rs. 247) than in U. P. (Rs. 393) and West Bengal (Rs. 412).

TRADE UNIONS

The following table supplied by the Labour Department shows that 34 registered Unions up to 31st March, 1961, are functioning in the district for the welfare of the labourers :—

Serial no.	Name of the Union.	Reg. no.	Date of registration.	Affiliated.
1	2	3	4	5
1	Bhagalpur Electric Supply Workers' Union, Patal Babu Road, Mundichak, Bhagalpur.	74	1st February 1946 ..	..
2	Bhagalpur Waterworks Workers' Union, P.O. Barari, Bhagalpur.	194	8th November 1947 ..	All India Trade Union Congress (Communist).
3	Bhagalpur Municipal Employees' Union, Bhagalpur, House no. 4, Surya Prasad Road, Khanjharpur, Bhagalpur.	517	23rd July 1951 ..	Ditto.

Serial no.	Name of the Union.	Reg. no.	Date of registration.	Affiliated.
1	2	3	4	5
4	*Zila Biri Mazdoor* Union, Jogsar, Bhagalpur.	623	5th August 1953 ..	Hind Mazdoor Sabha.
5	Bhagalpur Mill Workers' Union, Bhagalpur, Sakhawat Hussain Lane, Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur.	662	28th March 1954 ..	All-India Trade Union Congress.
6	Gandhi Katra Traders' Stalls Owners Association, Patal Babu Road, Bhagalpur City.	668	29th April 1954 ..	Ditto.
7	Sultanganj Distillery Labour Union, Sakhawat Hussain Lane, Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur.	670	12th May 1954 ..	Ditto.
8	Bhagalpur Silk Mills Workers' Union, Sakhawat Hussain Lane, Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur.	676	7th June 1954 ..	Ditto.
9	Sultanganj Mill Workers' Union, Sakhawat Hussain Lane, Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur.	705	7th January 1954 ..	Ditto.
10	*Nagar Safai Mazdoor Sangh*, Gangadhar Banerjee Lane, Mundichak, Bhagalpur.	712	22nd February 1955	Indian National Trade Union Congress (Congress).
11	*Motor Karamchari Sangh*, Bhagalpur, C/o District Congress Committee Office, Bhagalpur.	723	31st March 1955 ..	Ditto.
12	Cinema Workers' Union, Sakhawat Hussain Lane, P.O. Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur.	732	4th June 1955 ..	Ditto.
13	Bhagalpur Rickshaw Drivers Union, Bhagalpur, Sakhawat Hussain Lane, Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur.	733	24th June 1955 ..	Ditto.
14	Bhagalpur *Zila Karamchari Sangh*, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur.	735	4th January 1955 ..	Ditto.
15	Bhagalpur Press Employees Union, Sakhawat Hussain Lane, Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur.	736	6th July 1955 ..	All-India Trade Union Congress (Communist).
16	*Khadya Utpadan Mill Karamchari Sangh*, D.C.C. Office, Bhagalpur.	739	25th July 1955 ..	Indian National Trade Union (Communist).

Serial no.	Name of the Union.	Reg. no.	Date of registration.	Affiliated.
1	2	3	4	5
17	*Kiryadar Sangh*, Bhagalpur, C/o Tej Narain Ram, Jagnoti, Bhagalpur-2.	750	3rd November 1955..	..
18	Nathnagar *Karamchari Sangh*, Nathnagar, Bhagalpur.	758	12th December 1955	Indian National Trade Union (Communist).
19	Silk Mill *Karamchari Sangh*, C/o District Congress Office, Bhagalpur.	759	12th December 1955	Ditto.
20	Bhagalpur *Zila Gramin Mazdoor Sangh*, D.C.C. District Office, Bhagalpur.	766	14th January 1955 ..	..
21	Bhagalpur District *Kandi Mazdoor Sangh*, P.O. Nathnagar, Bhagalpur.	806	23rd October 1956 ..	..
22	*Biri Mazdoor Sangh, Sultanganj*, P. O. Sultanganj, Bhagalpur.	816	20th December 1956	..
23	Sultanganj Thana Karamchari Mandal, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur.	818	4th January 1957 ..	..
24	*Karamchari Sangh*, Naugachia, Bhagalpur.	846	3rd February 1958..	..
25	All *Bihar Navik Sangh*, P.O. Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur.	858	6th June 1958 ..	..
26	Bhagalpur Zila Rickshaw Mazdoor Sangh, Zila Congress Bhawan, Bhagalpur.	876	12th December 1958..	..
27	Mill Mazdoor Sangh, P. O. Sultanganj, Bhagalpur.	895	24th March 1959 ..	..
28	Zila Weavers' Union, Champanagar, Bhagalpur.	926	14th December 1959 ..	..
29	Bhagalpur Gariwan Sangh, P. O. Mirjanhat, district Bhagalpur.	951	27th April 1960 ..	..
30	Bhagalpur District Board Karamchari Sangh, Bhagalpur.	957	23rd May 1960 ..	..
31	Bhagalpur Motia Mazdoor Sangh, P. O. Mirjanhat, district Bhagalpur.	963	5th June 1960 ..	..
32	Bhagalpur *Nagar Dugdha Sahyog Karamchari Sangh*, Sakhawat Hussain Road, Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur-1.	999	1st March 1961 ..	..
33	Bhagalpur Zila Khet Mazdoor Sabha, Bhikhanpur, Nayatola, Bhagalpur.	1000	1st March 1961 ..	..
34	Colgong Mill Mazdoor Union, Sakhawat Hussain Road, Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur.	1001	1st March 1961 ..	..

Trade Unionism is still in a fluid state and parochial interests often based on narrow vision of the local leaders mar the larger interest of the workers. Most of these Unions are more of paper work and of very recent formation with a view to get a foot-hold for some clever men who are anxious to catch leadership.

Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes

The population of the Adivasis, Harijans and other Backward classes in the entire district based on the reports of 1951 census (pages 88 to 94 of District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur, published in 1956) are as follows :—

	Population.
Scheduled Castes	1,72,096
Scheduled Tribes	96,126
Other Backward Classes ..	5,35,144

They are distributed all over the district. The distribution in the district revenue thanawise according to the Census Report of 1951 was as follows :—

——	Scheduled Castes.	Scheduled Tribes.	Other Backward classes.
1	2	3	4
1. Sultanganj revenue thana	17,011	266	48,864
2. Bhagalpur Revenue thana (excluding Bhagalpur town).	23,775	35	60,886
3. Colgong Revenue thana (excluding Colgong town).	34,072	25,224	96,860
4. Bihpur Revenue thana	15,305	76	66,237
5. Amarpur Revenue thana	29,872	6,295	78,631
6. Katoria Revenue thana	21,423	34,244	52,510
7. Banka Revenue thana	21,392	29,496	82,862
TOTAL	1,62,350	95,636	4,88,250
Bhagalpur city	9,264	365	43,954
Colgong city	482	125	2,940
TOTAL URBAN ..	9,746	490	46,894
DISTRICT TOTAL ..	1,72,096	96,125	5,35,144

For the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward communities, the State Government maintains one District Welfare Officer, one Assistant Welfare Officer and 16 Welfare Inspectors.

ECONOMIC WELFARE

The Backward Classes being very poor had to procure seeds and money on credit at exorbitant rates of compound interest from village *Mahajans*. These debts were realised at the time of harvesting, leaving very little margin for the poor people for future use. To help them grain *golas* have been established which supply seeds at 25 per cent rate of interest for the first year and thereafter 6¼ per cent compound interest for each succeeding year. There are 14 such grain *golas* distributed all over the district. Previously this facility existed for the Scheduled Tribes only but due to subsequent amendment in the grain *gola* rules, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes of Annexure I can also get the benefit of these grain *golas*.

The list of the 14 grain *golas* is mentioned below, and the number of persons who have been supplied with grain:—

Serial no.	Name of the grain *gola* and the year of opening.	Name of the Block or Anchal.	Persons benefited during 1960-61.
1	2	3	4
1	Harijan grain *gola*, Kajraihi, 1957-58 ..	Nathnagar	77 (including Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.)
2	Harijan grain *gola*, Sonhaula, 1956-57 ..	Sonhaula ..	49 (including Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes).
3	Harijan grain *gola*, Amarpur, 1956-57 ..	Amarpur ..	428 (including Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes).
4	Harijan grain *gola*, Jagdishpur, 1957-58	Jagdishpur	188 (including Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes).
5	Adivasi grain *gola*, Baunsi, 1953 ..	Baunsi ..	Not available.
6	Adivasi grain *gola*, Shovapathan, 1954 ..	Baunsi ..	146 (including Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes).
7	Adivasi grain *gola*, Banka ..	Banka ..	295 (including Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes).

Serial no.	Name of the grain *gola* and the year of opening.	Name of the Block or Anchal.	Persons benefited during 1960-61.
1	2	3	4
8	Adivasi grain *gola*, Katoria, 1956 ..	Banka ..	284 (including Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes).
9	Adivasi grain *gola*, Suriya, 1956-57 ..	Chandan	350 (including Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes).
10	Adivasi grain *gola*, Jamdaha, 1956-57..	Katoria ..	249 (including Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes).
11	Adivasi grain *gola*, Jaipur, 1956-57 ..	Katoria ..	277 (including Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes).
12	Adivasi grain *gola*, Pirpainty, 1958-59	Pirpainti	104 (including Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes).
13	Adivasi grain *gola*, Chandan, 1959-60 ..	Chandan	275 (including Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes).
14	Adivasi grain *gola*, Belhar, 1959-60 ..	Belhar ..	281 (including Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes).

The number of persons benefited cannot be said to be large.

Agricultural Subsidy

During 1957-58 Agricultural subsidy of Rs. 6,500 were granted to Scheduled Castes, Rs. 4,500 to Scheduled Tribes and Rs. 11,219 to other Backward Classes.

During 1958-59 Agricultural subsidy of Rs. 5,000 were granted to Scheduled Tribes, Rs. 10,000 to Scheduled Castes and Rs. 11,219 to other Backward Classes.

Agricultural subsidy during 1959-60 granted to Scheduled Tribes was Rs. 5,000, Rs. 5,000 was also granted to Scheduled Castes and Rs. 17,000 to Backward Classes.

During the year 1960-61 Agricultural subsidy of Rs. 7,000 was granted to Scheduled Castes, Rs. 6,000 to Scheduled Tribes and Rs. 6,900 to other Backward Classes. These subsidies were meant for purchase of bullocks, manures and seeds. In consideration of the population and their marked economic weakness, the help is very useful although the degree of help may not be adequate.

HOUSING SCHEME

Construction of houses has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,250 per house, out of which Government contribution is Rs. 937.50 per house.

During the years 1956-57 to 1960-61 the number of houses taken up for construction for Scheduled Castes is 242 of which 38 are under the State Plan and 204 are under the Central Plan. Seventy houses are being built for Scheduled Tribes under the Centrally sponsored scheme.

During the years 1955-56 to 1960-61 the Central Government spent Rs. 83,320 and the State Government Rs. 34,012 for the construction of the houses of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The chart below shows the location of the schemes which have been completed:—

UNDER CENTRAL PLAN FOR SCHEDULED CASTES.

Year of construction.	Name of the village.	Police Station.	No. of houses.
1	2	3	4
1956-57	Marardih ..	Naugachia ..	11
	Udhadih ..	Sultanganj ..	10
	Akbarnagar ..	Sultanganj ..	2
	Kajhia ..	Banka ..	6
	Hario ..	Sultanganj ..	2
	Englishchiokroan ..	Sultanganj ..	2
	Parghari ..	Rajaun ..	6
1958-59	Pakra ..	Naugachia ..	6
	Gaoripur ..	Bihpur ..	4
	Noonuchak Makadpur	Nathnagar ..	3
	Bhor Bahiya ..	Belhar ..	8
	Jagaria ..	Shahkund ..	3
1959-60	Makdumma ..	Amarpur ..	1
	Birajpur ..	Chandan ..	7
	Maksaspur ..	Sadar ..	100
	Chakulia ..	Rajaun ..	6
	Mehrana ..	Rajaun ..	3
	Telgama ..	Katoria ..	6
	Muriari ..	Katoria ..	4
	Bhormara ..	Katoria ..	7
	Katoria ..	Katoria ..	4
	Jagaria ..	Shahkund ..	3

UNDER THE STATE SPONSORED SCHEME FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

Year of construction.	Name of the village.	Police Station.	No. of houses.
1	2	3	4
1959-60	Naugachia ..	Naugachia ..	2
	Sunderpur ..	Pirpainti ..	7 (under execution).
	Mohamdabad ..	Sabour ..	8 (under execution).
	Pildouri ..	Sultanganj ..	5
	Jhitia ..	Shahkund ..	6 (under execution).
	Mehrana ..	Rajaun ..	3 (under execution).
	Lausfa ..	Amarpur ..	7

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

Year of construction.	Name of the village.	Police Station.	No. of houses.
1	2	3	4
1957-58	Lakshmipur ..	Katoria ..	8
1958-59	Lalmahia ..	Bounsi ..	6
	Chumka ..	Belhar ..	5
1959-60	Tetaria ..	Katoria ..	7
	Chehatjoore ..	Katoria ..	6
	Tola Bengal Kala Paprewa.	Katoria ..	6
	Gangh ..	Bounsi ..	10
	Labrabia ..	Baunsi ..	4 (under execution).
	Domsari ..	Katoria ..	6
1960-61	Kaghar ..	Katoria ..	12

These houses are occupied by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But these houses are not adequate for the population of about two and half lakhs.

Educational Welfare

Arrangements have been made to encourage education among the boys of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward communities by giving them stipends, exemptions from school fees and distribution of book grants. Free hostel accommodation has been provided to some extent.

14 Harijan Lower Primary Schools have been opened by the Welfare Department in the district. These are located at Dukkaranpurawar, P.-S. Rajaun, Supaha, P.-S. Katoria, Chandan Nawadih, P.-S. Katoria, Bhiti Sultanpur, P.-S. Sabour, Raghunathpur Katam, P.-S. Rajaun, Kusahi, P.-S. Sultanganj, Mohanpur, P.-S. Rajaun, Gauripur, P.-S. Katoria, Tetri, P.-S. Naugachia, Shyampur, P.-S. Rajaun, Bahrampur, P.-S. Bihpur, Ekchari, P.-S. Pirpainti and Belhar, P.-S. Belhar. The main function of these schools is to provide education to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students. No fees are charged from the students. The special schools admit other boys of different communities as well.

Stipends and book grants are awarded to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes through the District Stipend Committee, constituted by the State Government for the same purpose for the students reading in Middle and Secondary Schools. Boys reading in Colleges are awarded stipend and book grants through the State and Central Stipend Committee.

The Welfare Department has been giving stipends and book grants to boys of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. An amount of Rs. 33,360, Rs. 31,431, Rs. 21,636, Rs. 39,442, Rs. 55,520 had been given as stipends to the boys of the Scheduled Castes for the years 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61, respectively.

The amounts as such to the boys of the Scheduled Tribes for the same years were Rs. 12,264, Rs. 2,234, Rs. 14,581, Rs. 24,461, and Rs. 40,951, respectively. Stipends to the boys of Backward Classes for the same years were Rs. 49,440, Rs. 52,899, Rs. 52,899, Rs. 33,663, Rs. 73,344 and Rs. 74,756, respectively. The number of students benefited by such stipends in 1960-61 were 580 belonging to the Scheduled Castes, 485 belonging to Scheduled Tribes and 763 belonging to the Backward Classes.

Hostels

In order to solve the problems of accommodation of the students of these Backward communities, State Government have sanctioned the construction of some hostels for them.

The following Harijans and Adivasi hostels are now running in the district:—

	Seat allowed.
1. Harijan Hostel (for school students)	40
2. Welfare Hostel No. I (for college students) now T.N.B. College. ..	100
3. Welfare Hostel No. II (for College students) now T.N.B. College ..	100
4. Adivasi Hostel, Chandan	25
5. Adivasi Hostel, Khessau	25
6. Adivasi Hostel, Katoria	25
7. Adivasi Hostel, Baunsi	25

These are hostels for boys and managed by the Welfare Department. Usually one Superintendent and one cook are provided to every hostel in addition to the house rent and cost of utensils borne by the State Government. Every boarder at the hostel gets a grant of Rs. 15 only as well. No seat rent is charged from the students. If seats are available, students of other castes are also admitted. The problem of untouchability can be solved by offering opportunities to the so-called high caste students by living together with these students of the Backward Classes.

Miscellaneous Relief

Medical aid for treatment of incurable diseases are occasionally given.

The Welfare Department has constructed 61 wells in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes area since 1953-54 to 1960-61.

Reservation for representatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been made in the appointments to III and IV grade services. The Welfare section has been trying to improve the condition of the Backward Classes and Tribes but it cannot be said that much success has yet been achieved. In a recent investigation on the claim of the thousands of the Rai Ghatwars of Banka subdivision who wanted to be included in the Scheduled list of tribes it was found out that the Welfare section had very little statistics of this community and had very poor information of them.

Prohibition

Prohibition has not been enforced in the district of Bhagalpur by any statute. An attempt is, however, made to bring in prohibition by measures such as raising of prices of the intoxicants and the restriction of the sale of liquor, etc. But those measures have not had any appreciable result. In 1959 the price of ganja

was Rs. 1.50 per tola and the receipt was Rs. 49,509. The price was raised in 1961 to Re 1.92 per tola and the receipt showed a decrease of only Rs. 2,246. The sale of opium has been restricted since 1st April 1959 and opium is now sold for oral consumption only to people on medical certificate granted by the Civil Surgeon.

The Excise Department has been treated in the chapter under General Administration and it will be seen there that Excise is one of the main sources of revenue for the State exchequer. Prohibition can only be introduced with the full knowledge that there will be a big fall in revenue of the State. The incidence of consumption of intoxicants, particularly liquor has definitely been going up and has spread even to the class of students who were free from it before.

Charitable Endowments

Public Trusts and Endowments made by the Hindus in Bhagalpur district are governed by the Bihar Hindu Religious Trust Act of 1950. The State Government have formed a Board known as Bihar State Board of Religious Trust, constituted under the Bihar Hindu Religious Trust Act of 1950, which is headed by a Special Officer with his headquarters at Patna. There are 207 Trusts registered under this Act.

The Act imposes a duty on the trustees of a Public Trust to make an application for the registration of the Trust giving specific particulars. The trustees should mention in the application the approximate value of movable and immovable properties belonging to the Trust, and the actual annual income and expenditure. No registration is, however, essential for Trusts owned privately. From the registered Trust the Board realises a fee at the rate of 5 per cent on the net income of the Trust property.

According to the Act, proper preservation and protection of endowed properties is offered. A trustee cannot sell or transfer any endowed property without the previous sanction of the Board. If a trustee does so the property will be recovered by the Board under the orders of the District Judge.

If a trustee mismanages or acts in a manner prejudicial to the interest of the Trust, he is liable to removal.

Public Trusts and Endowments made by the Muslims in Bhagalpur district are governed by the Bihar Waqf Act, 1947. According to the Act 161 such Trusts of Bhagalpur district have been registered. The headquarters of the administration of Muslim Trusts is also at Patna with a President, a *Nazir*, an Accountant, a law Agent and 8 assistants. The Waqfs are controlled by the President with his headquarters at Patna.

Charitable Endowments may be classed under two categories, *viz.* (1) those created for public pruposes and placed under the

management of Government officials, and (2) religious and public trusts placed in charge of trustees such as *Mutwallis* in *waqf* estate of Muslims and *Sevayats* in religious trust of Hindus and other communities. Besides this, there are three charitable funds in Bhagalpur district for the welfare of the meritorious students.

It may be observed here that the abolition of zamindari and the present trend of bringing in a socialistic pattern of society and the commitments and demands of the Welfare State will have a general freezing effect on the monied classes to make fresh charitable trusts and foundations. The trusts so far had been mostly created by the zamindars and middle classes of higher income group.

Some of the Trusts in the district are as follows:—

Lila Deep Narayan Trust.—This Trust was created on 28th May 1930 by the late Mr. Deep Narayan Singh of Bhagalpur. He gave away his entire zamindari to the trust. The annual income of his zamindari was Rs. 1,76,601. After the abolition of zamindari the estate was taken by the Government. The Government grants Rs. 42,577 per year which is distributed to the schools and colleges of Bhagalpur.

The Government grants Rs. 2,640 per year to T.N.B. College, Bhagalpur, Rs. 1,800 per year to T.N.B. Collegiate School, Bhagalpur, Rs. 27,937 per year to the Lila Deep Narayan Technical School, Barari and Rs. 3,000 to Ramanand Anathalaya, Bhagalpur.

The main aim of the Trust is to help the schools and colleges. The Lila Deep Narayan Technical School at Barari was opened in 1955 after the name of Mr. Deep Narayan Singh and his wife.

Burha Nath Temple Trust.—This Trust was registered in 1960 and is under the Bihar State Board of Religious Trust. It is located at Jogsar Mohalla of Bhagalpur. The administrative head of the Trust is the *Mahanth* and there is a committee of five members.

A Sanskrit *Pathsala* is functioning in the temple. The annual expenditure on the Pathsala is about Rs. 500 per year. The net income of the Burha Nath Temple Trust is Rs. 6,823 per year. The whole income of the temple is spent on the management of the temple.

Syed Shah Enayat Hussain Waqf Estate.—Syed Shah Enayat Hussain dedicated his property into waqf Alaludad and executed a registered deed on 26th February, 1872 and appointed his grandson Shah Amir Alam as *Mutawalli*.

After meeting the necessary expenses of the management of the estate, the *mutawalli* was directed to meet the necessary expenses in mosques, *Dargah*, *Urs* and *Neyaz*, etc.

The income of the waqf during 1957 was Rs. 16,424, Rs. 15,286 in 1958, Rs. 19,134.94 in 1959 and Rs. 24,621.77 in 1960.

Mojahidpur Trust Board, Waqf no. 772.—A registered document was executed by the members of the Board of Trust on 17th March, 1939 (the deed of declaration of Trust) with a Secretary and 13 members. The assets of the Trust are some properties in Bhagalpur town.

The income of the Trust during 1955-56 was Rs. 7,001.97, Rs. 74,228.87 in 1956-57, Rs. 7,884.05 in 1957-58, Rs. 7,144.47 in 1958-59, Rs. 9,699.35 in 1959-60 and Rs. 7,899.50 in 1960-61.

The Trust makes the payment of the taxes and spends the income in the repairing of the mosques and houses which are under the Trust.

The invested capital of the fund is Rs. 1,000 only.

Harballabh Narayan Scholarship fund.—This fund was created in 1869 by the late Maharaj Harballabh Narayan Singh of Sonbarsa in the district of Bhagalpur. It is administered by the Collector and the Principal of Tej Narayan Banaili College. The Collector draws the interest and spends it on the annual award of three scholarships to students.

The invested capital of the fund is Rs. 22,800.

Wood Memorial Fund.—This fund has been named after the late Principal of Sabour Agricultural College, Mr. E. J. Woodhouse who was killed in France.

The Fund represents a permanent endowment and securites pertaining to its case which are not to be sold or given up without the order of the local Government. The interest obtained from them is donated to the writer of the best thesis on some botanical or horticultural subject.

Government have appointed two trustees one of whom is the Director of Agriculture and the other the Collector of Bhagalpur.

CHAPTER XV.

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

First General Election of 1952.

After the attainment of independence the First General Election was held in 1952. This election was a unique feature as it was for the first time, that election was held on the basis of adult franchise.

Previously franchise for the local bodies, Provincial Assembly or Council was based on the restrictions of property, tax, educational qualifications or communal representation, etc., and all this accounted for a low percentage of voters. Adult franchise, the great feature of 1952 election provided equal opportunities for men and women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward classes to exercise their right of votes. It has been a great experiment.

Legislative Assembly.

In the General Election of 1952, 11,16,953 persons or about 40.8 per cent of the population of Bhagalpur district was eligible for exercising their right to franchise. There were 18 constituencies for *Bihar Vidhan Sabha* (Bihar Legislative Assembly) out of which four were plural and 14 were single constituencies. The political parties that participated in the election for the 22 seats were of all-India character. 32 Independent candidates contested the 16 Assembly seats with no result. The results of the 1952 General Election with regard to the Assembly seats are given in the four tables at the end of the Chapter.

Parliamentary Seats.

In the General Election of 1952 the following were the two Parliamentary constituencies in the district of Bhagalpur:—

(1) Bhagalpur Central.

(2) Bhagalpur South.

For the purpose of *Lok Sabha* or the Indian Parliament a few constituencies of Darbhanga and Purnea were joined to Bhagalpur-*cum*-Darbhanga and Bhagalpur-*cum*-Purnea constituency.

Bhagalpur-*cum*-Purnea was a double member constituency for which four candidates, belonging to Congress and Socialist Party contested. One seat was captured by Congress and another seat by Socialist Party.

In Bhagalpur-*cum*-Darbhanga Parliamentary constituency there was a direct fight between candidates for the Congress and Socialist Party. The seat went to the member of the Congress Party.

Bhagalpur Central was a single member constituency for which only five candidates, two of Congress, two of Socialist and one of Jan Sangh contested and Congress occupied this seat also.

Lastly, Bhagalpur South was also a single member constituency for which four candidates, one of Congress, one of Socialist, one each of Independent and one of Kisan Majdoor Praja Party contested and the Congress got this seat also. A list of the details of this election may be seen at Table 2 of this Chapter at the close.

1957 General Election.

The Second General Election was held in 1957 on the basis of the electoral rolls made in 1952 subject to modification made therein in course of five years that elapsed since then. There is one election office at the district headquarters with its subordinate subdivisional election offices at the subdivisional headquarters whose duty is to keep up-to-date electoral rolls of their respective jurisdictions. On the basis of this electoral roll the Second General Election was held during 1957.

The total number of electors in 1957 in Bhagalpur was 7,99,758 as against 11,16,953 in 1952. In the year 1952 Bhagalpur district had four subdivisions, viz., Sadar, Banka, Madhepura and Supaul but with the creation of Saharsa district Supaul and Madhepura subdivisions are vested in Saharsa district. The present Bhagalpur comprises of two subdivisions only, viz., Sadar and Banka. The number of the Parliamentary seats had been decreased which came down to 2 as against 4 in 1952 because of the creation of Saharsa district. There had also been a decrease in the Assembly seats which came down to 10 as against 18 in 1952.

1957 *Assembly Election*

As indicated there were 10 Assembly constituencies, out of which two were plural and 8 were single member constituencies. This time the contest was for 12 seats and as before the candidates of the Indian National Congress, Praja Socialist Party and Independents were the main contestants. Candidates of the Janata, Jharkhand, Communist and Jan Sangh Parties were contestants in a few seats. In all 27 Independents contested for twelve seats with no result. Out of these 12 seats, 10 seats were captured by Congress and 2 by Communist candidates. There was a bye-election in Katoria constituency in the month of May, 1961 for a seat of State Legislature due to the death of the M.L.A. of that area. This time the Congress and Jharkhand Party contested and the

seat was captured by the Congress candidate. The details of this election have been furnished in a tabular form in Table 3.

Parliamentary Election of 1957.

In the Parliamentary constituencies for two seats, 8 candidates contested for the seats. There was no double member constituency. Both the seats were captured by the Congress candidates. Further details of these elections have been given at the close of this Chapter in Table 4.

TABLE I.

1952 ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate. Total.	Contesting.	No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 6.	Party affiliations.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1 Nirmali	1	4	4	45,441	45,441	19,949	43.9	Congress ..	13,773	69.5
								Socialist ..	4,586	22.9
								Jan Sangh ..	1,106	5.5
								Praja ..	484	2.1
2. Pratapganj	1	3	3	47,374	47,374	24,242	46.8	Congress ..	16,427	67.7
								Socialist ..	6,893	28.3
								Independent ..	912	4
3. Supaul	1	2	2	51,018	51,018	25,502	49.7	Congress ..	16,676	65.2
								Socialist ..	8,826	34.8
4. Tribeniganj-cum-Madhipura.	2	5	5	1,18,015	1,18,015	38,659	32.4	Congress ..	17,838	23.2
								Congress ..	17,683	22.8
								Socialist ..	7,172	22.4
								Socialist ..	7,114	22.2
								Independent ..	7,510	9.4
5. Dharhara	1	4	4	52,260	52,260	24,266	46.4	Socialist ..	10,834	44.8
								Congress ..	10,415	44.7
								Independent ..	1,600	6.2
								Independent ..	1,367	4.3
6. Sawar Bazar-cum-Son-barsa.	2	8	8	89,168	89,168	32,971	39.7	Congress ..	14,593	23.1
								Socialist ..	14,109	21.4
								Congress ..	11,116	16.4
								Socialist ..	10,848	16.3
								Independent ..	5,313	8.3
								Independent ..	4,890	7.6
								Independent ..	3,087	4.7
								Praja ..	2,057	3.2

7. Murliganj	1	3	3	54,868	54,965	26,484	48.3	Congress ..	14,636	55.3
								Socialist ..	9,872	37.3
								Independent ..	1,976	6.9
8. Kishanganj ..	1	4	4	30,618	30,618	17,985	47.0	Congress ..	8,160	45.3
								Socialist ..	4,407	24.4
								Independent ..	3,658	20.4
								Independent ..	1,760	9.9
9. Alamnagar	1	5	5	54,622	54,622	23,943	43.8	Socialist ..	8,549	35.7
								Congress ..	8,153	35.2
								Independent ..	3,276	13.7
								Independent ..	2,004	9.8
								Independent ..	1,961	7.6
10. Naugachhia-cum-Bhagalpur	1	6	6	52,306	52,306	27,133	51.7	Congress ..	9,691	34.3
								Independent ..	4,645	2.1
								Praja ..	1,552	5.5
								Communist ..	7,136	25.3
								Socialist ..	3,345	11.3
								Independent ..	764	2.5
11. Colgong	1	5	5	57,191	57,191	29,521	51.6	Congress ..	16,944	56.5
								Socialist ..	5,093	18.4
								Communist ..	4,739	16.1
								Praja ..	1,441	4.9
								Independent ..	1,304	4.1
12. Bhagalpur town ..	1	7	7	50,797	50,797	22,490	44.3	Congress ..	10,461	45.7
								Jan Sangh ..	3,015	13.2
								Socialist ..	2,724	12.9
								Independent ..	2,695	11.5
								Independent ..	2,114	9.3
								Praja ..	1,060	4.6
								Independent ..	421	1.8
13. Bhagalpur Mufassil ..	1	6	6	51,608	51,608	24,523	45.6	Congress ..	10,640	46.4
								Praja ..	5,742	21.3
								Socialist ..	3,805	17.5
								Independent ..	2,776	11.3
								Independent ..	884	3.7
								Jan Sangh ..	676	2.8
14. Sultanganj	1	4	4	51,991	51,991	29,140	57.4	Congress ..	12,485	42.7
								Socialist ..	9,416	32.3
								Independent ..	5,732	19.4
								Praja ..	1,507	5.6

TABLE I—*concld.*

1952 ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate. Total.	No. of candidate. Contesting.	No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 6.	Party affiliations.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15. Dhuraiya-*cum*-Amarpur ..	2	7	7	1,01,010	1,01,010	41,919	41.4	Congress ..	20,608	24.4
								Congress ..	18,101	21.7
								Socialist ..	10,974	13.2
								Socialist ..	10,818	12.9
								Independent ..	7,170	8.4
								Independent ..	5,854	6.9
								Praja ..	5,346	6.3
								Jan Sangh ..	4,967	6.2
16. Banka	1	8	8	41,606	41,606	22,579	54.3	Congress ..	11,619	51.3
								Independent ..	3,555	15.6
								Socialist ..	3,398	14.8
								Independent ..	1,344	5.4
								F.B. ..	1,063	4.8
								U.K. Sabha ..	690	3.6
								Independent ..	470	2.7
								Jana Sangh ..	459	1.8
17. Belhar-*cum*-Katoria ..	2	7	7	1,06,560	1,06,560	87,750	82.7	Congress ..	18,277	20.9
								Congress ..	17,615	20.1
								Socialist ..	16,206	18.6
								Independent ..	12,440	14.5
								Jharkhand ..	10,931	12.7
								Independent ..	10,148	12.3
								Independent ..	2,133	1.1
18. Pirpainty	1	5	5	51,500	51,500	27,218	47.4	Congress ..	11,854	43.4
								Socialist ..	6,019	22.2
								Independent ..	4,905	17.3
								Independent ..	3,354	12.7
								Praja ..	1,086	4.4

TABLE II.

1952 PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate. Total.	Contesting.	No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 6.	Party affiliations.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Bhagalpur Central ..	1	5	5	3,06,142	3,06,142	1,45,939	47.6	Congress ..	67,322	46.3
								Socialist ..	39,942	27.2
								K.M.P.P. ..	20,030	12.5
								Independent ..	13,655	9.7
								Jan Sangh ..	10,960	4.3
2. Bhagalpur South ..	1	4	4	3,01,167	3,01,167	1,44,686	48.4	Congress ..	71,979	49.2
								Socialist ..	45,255	30.7
								Independent ..	18,187	12.8
								K.M.P.P. ..	9,265	6.3
3. Bhagalpur-cum-Purnea	2	4	4	6,49,994	6,49,994	2,56,383	39.6	Congress ..	1,59,358	31.2
								Socialist ..	1,29,144	25.1
								Congress ..	1,24,589	24.6
								Socialist ..	99,674	19.1
4. Bhagalpur-cum-Darbhanga	1	2	2	3,31,476	3,31,476	1,46,291	44.7	Congress ..	94,414	63.8
								Socialist ..	51,877	36.2

TABLE III.

1957 ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate. Total.	No. of candidate. Contesting.	No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 6.	Party affiliations.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Pirpainti	1	9	9	64,877	64,877	32,288	49.7	Communist ..	7,738	23.9
								Independent ..	1,459	4.8
								Independent ..	1,199	3.7
								Congress ..	11,222	31.6
								Janta ..	2,046	6.6
								Independent ..	840	2.7
								Independent ..	1,578	4.8
								Independent ..	1,258	3.8
								P.S.P. ..	4,948	16.1
2. Colgong	2	7	7	1,43,064	1,43,064	58,001	40.05	Congress ..	30,751	25.7
								Congress ..	30,032	24.4
								Independent ..	6,692	4.7
								P.S.P. ..	10,253	8.6
								Janta ..	11,036	9.7
								P.S.P. ..	10,023	8.8
								Communist ..	13,207	16.1
3. Bhagalpur	1	6	6	55,846	55,846	22,562	40.04	Congress ..	9,820	43.6
								Jan Sangh ..	5,734	25.6
								Independent ..	789	3.5
								Communist ..	1,442	6.2
								Independent ..	558	2.4
								Independent ..	4,219	18.7

4. Gopalpur ..	.	1	6	6	68,577	68,577	34,248	49.7	Independent ..	5,868	17.1
									P.S.P. ..	1,219	3.7
									Congress ..	10,195	29.6
									Jan Sangh ..	3,587	10.4
									Independent ..	670	1.9
									Communist ..	12,709	37.3
5. Bihpur ..	..	1	5	5	72,793	72,793	38,699	53.2	Congress ..	14,609	37.5
									Independent ..	2,033	5.2
									Jan Sangh ..	6,009	15.3
									Communist ..	15,295	40.1
									Independent ..	753	1.9
6. Sultanganj ..	..	1	4	4	75,462	75,462	38,162	50.04	Independent ..	3,782	9.7
									Congress ..	18,042	47.4
									P. S. P. ..	14,401	37.6
									Independent ..	1,937	5.3
7. Amarpur ..	..	1	7	7	56,390	56,390	24,571	43.7	Independent ..	770	3.4
									Independent ..	3,577	14.7
									Independent ..	1,175	4.8
									Congress ..	11,785	47.5
									Independent ..	2,121	8.6
									Independent ..	3,780	15.4
									P. S. P. ..	1,393	5.6
8. Dhoraiya ..	..	1	7	7	66,619	66,619	29,255	43.9	Independent ..	958	3.3
									Congress ..	10,538	36.3
									Jharkhand ..	4,933	17.7
									Jharkhand ..	1,354	4.4
									P. S. P. ..	6,974	24.7
									Independent ..	3,050	13.6
									Independent ..	1,448	4.9
9. Banka ..	..	1	6	6	61,833	61,833	28,801	46.6	Jharkhand ..	2,055	7.4
									Congress ..	9,922	34.3
									Independent ..	4,290	14.5
									P. S. P. ..	2,171	7.7
									Independent ..	8,124	27.6
									Independent ..	2,239	7.9

TABLE III—*concld*.

1957 ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate.		No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 6.	Party affiliations.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.
		Total.	Contesting.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10. Katoria	2	6	6	1,34,297	1,34,297	52,801	31.9	Independent ..	10,167	7.7.
								Congress ..	25,947	24.6
								Jharkhand ..	14,144	13.3
								P. S. P. ..	19,253	18.2
								Janata ..	9,737	9.3
								Congress ..	26,354	26.9
Bye-election held in the month of May, 1961.	1	2	2	1,42,391	1,42,391	16,105	11.3	Congress ..	11,393	70.6
								Jharkhand ..	4,712	29.4

TABLE IV.

1967 PARLIAMENT ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate. Total.	No. of candidate. Contesting.	No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 6.	Party affiliations.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Banka ..	1	5	5	3,89,909	3,89,909	1,54,139	39.9	Jharkhand ..	24,229	15.7
								P. S. P. ..	20,015	12.8
								Congress ..	78,904	51.4
								Independent ..	15,233	9.9
								Independent ..	15,758	10.2
2. Bhagalpur ..	1	3	3	4,05,868	4,05,868	1,80,911	44.8	Congress ..	99,366	54.8
								Communist ..	43,904	24.7
								P. S. P. ..	43,411	21.5

From the preceding tables it is apparent that as a single party the Indian National Congress fared much better than any other party in the district. But the combined votes of the opposite parties were 2,55,969 as against 2,43,217 secured by the Congress in 1957. This was partially due to the votes polled by the Independents who did not belong to any particular party.

It is also apparent that the political parties like Jan Sangh, Jharkhand, Janata and the P.S.P. had practically no hold in the district of Bhagalpur. In the post-election report it is mentioned that in strength and organisation the Congress Party had great hold in the district. Being the oldest and most popular as a single party in the country it has its workers in every *thana* and village. It is this ramified organisation which is very helpful to the Congress. It is also a fact that the Congress Party forming the Government in the previous election was a helpful factor. But the larger number of votes received by the other parties will indicate that the voters would not vote only because the candidate belonged to the Congress Party. The other parties were new and had not as many workers and volunteers as the Congress Party. Their basic organisation was weak. The Independents and Communists were in a better position than the other parties. Being local men of influence the Communist Party bagged two seats. The Independents were expected to win at many places but a high incidence of rivalry among themselves as is obvious from the large number of contestants marred their prospects.

The people are realising the importance of party system in the democratic form of Government. They also indicate that an active and strong party machinery to fight the elections has a better advantage than Independents working on their own.

As regards election of 1957 both for State Legislature and Parliament it may be mentioned that the election was fair in this district. The Independents, however, were able to capture some votes due to their local popularity and influence but due to rivalry among themselves they could not do so. Women took greater interest in the election. It is significant that two ladies were successful in getting Assembly seats.

NEWSPAPERS.

No daily newspapers are published in the district. In Bhagalpur two Hindi Weekly and one fortnightly periodicals are published. They are (1) *Lokmat*, (2) *Jagran*, (3) *Bhagalpur Samachar*. These periodicals are published from Bhagalpur.

(1) *Lokmat*.—It is a weekly periodical. It is a sort of political bulletin and also has articles. It has a circulation of about 1,000.

(2) *Jagran*.—It is a weekly party periodical. It is published by *Rastriya Swyamsewak Sangh*. It has a circulation of about 1,000.

(3) *Bhagalpur Samachar*.—It is a fortnightly periodical and its circulation figure is 1,000. The majority of the columns are covered by local news.

Apart from the periodicals there are many Hindi Magazines called "Bagwan", "Upaj," "Parag", "Mandar", "Prachya Bharati" and "Sammelan Sandesh" published from Bhagalpur. "Sammelan Sandesh" is a monthly magazine published by Marwari Association and mostly deals with the affairs of the Marwaris. The circulation of "Bagwan" is 1,500, "Upaj" 1,000, "Parag" 900, "Mandar" 1,000, "Prachya Bharati" 1,000. There is one English monthly magazine called "The Rising Sun" which has a circulation of about 700. It publishes short stories and matters of local interest in English.

The daily English newspapers in common circulation published outside the district but within the State are the *Indian Nation* and the *Searchlight* of Patna. The Calcutta papers that are in common circulation are the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Statesman*, the *Hindusthan Standard* and the *Times of Ind a* of Bombay. Among the English weeklies and periodicals that have some circulation mention may be made of the *Blitz* of Bombay, the *illustrated Weekly of India* of Bombay and the *Shankar's Weekly* of Delhi. The *Modern Review* and *Careers and Courses* have some circulation. No authentic circulation figures are available but it was gathered that about two and half thousand copies have a sale throughout the district. Considering the number of English educated people this figure is poor as it is the sale figure of all the papers mentioned.

Among the Hindi daily newspapers *Aryavarta*, *Pradeep*, *Vishwamitra* of Patna have a good circulation. Among the weekly Hindi periodicals *Dharmyug* (Bombay), *Navshakti* and *Yogi* of Patna have also a good cirulation. The two Bengali dailies of Calcutta *Ananda Bazar* and *Yugantar* have a good circulation.

Among the Urdu dailies *Seyasat-e-Jadid* of Kanpur, *Pratap* of Delhi and *Sade-e-Am* of Patna are popular.

Correct figures of circulation of the language papers are not available. For this purpose it may be taken that each paper that is sold is read by about four persons on the average. The newspapers in the libraries are read on the average by 50 to 100 persons everyday. The language papers are making a better headway.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

The Voluntary Social Service Organisations of local importance are a branch of Bharat Sewak Samaj, a branch of Bharat Scouts

and Guide, Yateem Khana, Ramanandi Devi Hindu Anathalaya, Bhoodan Movement, Rama Krishna Mission Ashram, Bhagalpur Football and Athletic Association, Harijan Sewak Sangh, Depressed Class League, Bihar Mushar Seva Sangh, Bhagalpur Kala Kendra, Banka Kala Kendra, Bhagalpur Sangeet Samaj, Marwari Sudhar Samiti, Bangiya Sahitya Parishad and Arya Samaj.

Bharat Sewak Samaj.—The Bharat Sewak Samaj was evolved on an all-India basis to enlist public co-operation in translating into reality the concept of the Welfare State. A branch of the organisation was formed in Bhagalpur district in 1957. There are several committees consisting of officials and non-officials to implement the various items in the programme of the organisation. Some of the official members are the representatives of the District Magistrate, District Agricultural Officer, District Animal Husbandry Officer, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies and District Welfare Officer. These officers help the organisation by issuing instructions to their subordinates to help the Bharat Sewak Samaj in implementing its scheme.

The programme of the Samaj is to function within its branches at all the blocks, *anchals*, *thanas*, subdivisions and even in villages. It has an office at Bhagalpur and operates through its following wings:—

(1) Information centre, (2) Anti-corruption centre, (3) Mahila section and (4) Youth and Camp section.

They also undertake village uplift work consisting of sanitation and public works. Public works schemes cover construction and maintenance of village paths, wells, pynes, etc., with the voluntary labour of its members. In the urban areas the Samaj has taken up sanitation, public health, cultural education, children welfare, youth welfare and co-operative works. The impact of the Samaj is not known.

Bharat Scouts and Guide.—This is an all-India organisation with headquarters at Patna. Bhagalpur has a branch. This branch trains its members, both boys and girls in voluntary service. The services of the Scouts are taken on occasions like public functions and *melas*, etc.

Yateem Khana.—This is an orphange for Muslims at Champanagar, Bhagalpur. This institution was established in 1944 for the maintenance of the Muslim orphan boys up to the age of 18 years and they were to be trained in some craft. This orphanage at present maintains 70 boys. This is an unregistered institution and four teachers have been appointed to impart training to boys. It has its managing committee with 21 members. It receives a grant of a sum of Rs. 2,000 from D. P. I. and Rs. 240 per annum from Bhagalpur Municipality and also some contributions

from public. It also runs a library which contains about five hundred books in Hindi, Urdu, English and Persian languages. Medical aid is also given to orphan boys.

Ramanandi Devi Hindu Anathalaya.—There is one orphanage at Champanagar, Bhagalpur for Hindu boys and girls known as "Ramanandi Devi Hindu Anathalaya". This institution was established in 1925, for the maintenance of Hindu orphan boys and girls up to 18 years. This orphanage is a registered one and receives grants from Social Welfare Board, D. P. I. and Collector. It receives about Rs. 5,000 annually from D. P. I., it maintains at present 45 boys and seven girls. One teacher and one *dai* have been appointed permanently. This institution has a managing committee with eleven members. Each member of the committee has to pay Rs. 3 annually as contribution. There are also contributions from the public. Each student receives grant of a sum of Rs. 10 from Education Department. A Higher Secondary School called Gurukul Higher Secondary School is also attached to it where about 480 students have been admitted. The orphan boys are granted full free-studentship. The students are also trained in some craft. This institution also runs a library which contains about 150 books. On every Sunday the students collect rice (Mushti Bhiksha) from door to door with a view to help themselves.

Bhoodan Movement.—Bhoodan Movement was started in the district of Bhagalpur in the year 1954 when the founder of the movement, Sant Vinoba Bhave came to this district and spent about one and half months. His mission is to get lands from the landowners and to distribute them to the landless.

In this district there were 7,843 donors from 1,405 villages. They have donated an area of 18,861 acres to the organisation. Of the total donated land, 6,697 acres have already been distributed amongst 4,049 landless people of the district. Of the total donors, 907 are *Harijans*, 273 are aboriginals and 2,873 are "others". Some partial or full *gramdan* or gifts of the village have also been made in the district. Such villages are Chatmadih and Bagha.

Apart from the collection and donation of lands, the district organisation of Bhoodan Movement in this district has several other organisations to look after. They are *Ambar Vidyalaya* at Bhagalpur, *Sarvodaya Mandal* at Bhagalpur and *Vinobagram* at Katoria. The *Ambar Vidyalaya* imparts training in *Ambar Charkha*, a particular type of *Charkha* easy to manipulate and quick in execution.

The organisation at Bhagalpur also looks after the management of the *Gramdan* villages in the district as well as the *Khadi* work. It is reported that there are about 60,000 spinners in the district

and about 3 lakhs of people are connected with the *Khadi* work and are benefited from it.

Rama Krishna Mission Ashram.—The Rama Krishna Mission Ashram was organised in April, 1959 and was affiliated in 1960. From the very beginning the Rama Krishna Ashram has gradually developed into a big institution with various philanthropic, educational and cultural activities. The Ashram runs a charitable outdoor dispensary with Homoeopathic treatment, a Junior High School, a music school, a children's welfare centre and occasional relief work, etc. It receives grant from local bodies of Bhagalpur. Besides, it also gets help from the people of Bhagalpur by means of donations and contributions.

The Homoeopathic department is conducted by a qualified doctor and a compounder. Free medical aid and medicines are given to patients irrespective of caste, creed and colour. So far the Ashram has rendered free medical treatment to about 1,425 patients. Moreover, six poor students and eight destitute families are getting regular help from the Ashram.

As regards Junior High School it may be mentioned the Rama Krishna Vidyalaya was started in 1959 mainly for the displaced persons but now it is not so. About 53 boys and 27 girls read in this school.

It also runs a Sangeet Vidyalaya. So long the Rama Krishna Sangeet Vidyalaya, one of the wings of the Ashram, had been holding its classes regularly at the Mokshada Girls' High School with a total strength of 34 girl students. The Ashram being situated at the remotest corner of the town, it was not possible to hold its classes in the Ashram premises considering the difficulties of girls coming from different parts of the town.

The primary school and the wing has now a strength of 27 students on the roll. It is progressing well. The library is utilised by students. It has a total collection of good books over 250 in number.

So far Bhartiya *Sharir Siksha Kendra* is concerned, 24 students were physically trained in 1960.

The birthday of Swami Vivekananda, Shri-Shri Ma are observed by "Nagar Sankritan", music and sports competition. On this occasion prizes are awarded to students taking part in it. On that evening a cultural show is also exhibited to general public.

Bhagalpur Football and Athletic Association.—This Association was organised in 1911 and is affiliated to the Bihar State Sports Association. It has a working committee with 17 members where

the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur, is the Chairman. It receives some Government aid from youth welfare fund and also from the discretionary fund of the Commissioner, Bhagalpur Division. The main work of this Association is to give affiliation to sports, clubs and teams of the district. Besides, it runs five tournaments in Football and Hockey. It has its own enclosure. The Association has done good work in the field of physical education. Soccer is popular here.

Harijan Sewak Sangh.—For welfare of *Harijans* the following institutions have been started but all are unregistered institutions. They are Harijan Sewak Sangh and the Bhagalpur District *Dalit Varg Sangh* at Bhagalpur. They are exclusively associated with the work of ameliorating the condition of the *Harijans*. An attempt is made to give them a better start in life and to introduce handicrafts for improving the economic condition. All these institutions receive help from the State.

Depressed Class League.—This organisation was established for the propagation of national ideas among the *Harijans*. During the Round Table Conference in 1932-33 this League was an independent organisation although it has affiliation with the Indian National Congress. This has not a very active branch in Bhaglpur district. It is closely associated with social reforms among the *Harijans*. It is now essentially a body for bringing in social reforms and removal of untouchability.

Bihar Mushar Seva Sangh.—This association was established in 1958 and is a registered association. It was established for the uplift of the Mushar community and is an association of its own caste. It has a working committee with fifteen members. It runs a night school and a primary school for boys and girls. It has also a committee which looks after the public health and sanitation of the villages of its own caste.

Bhagalpur Kala Kendra.—To provide for new openings for students and for turning out trained teachers, Kala Kendra, Bhagalpur was started on 21st August 1954. It is affiliated to the Lalit Kala Academy of the Central Government, New Delhi. This institution is a registered one and has 80 students including boys and girls. It has been recognised by the University of Bihar from 1958 to prepare students for Diploma course in *Shilpa*, *Sangeet* and *Nritya Kala*. It has got a managing committee with Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Principal and twenty members. It receives a non-recurring grant from the State Government of Bihar. Besides, some small grants from the discretionary fund of the distinguished visitors and local officers are also occasionally obtained. This institution provides for studying research and development in fine arts and crafts, music, dance, drama, painting, sculpture,

make-ups, etc. It also organises periodical exhibitions and demonstrations and other competitions and prizes are awarded to the winners.

Banka Kala Kendra.—This institution was established in 1957 for the cultural uplift of the people of Banka area. It is an unregistered one. It organises periodical exhibitions and demonstrations and prizes are given to the winners. It organises cultural programmes quarterly and the public are benefited from this institution. It has a managing committee with fifteen members.

Bhagalpur Sangeet Samaj.—This association was established in 1901. This is an old association but a private one. It has a managing committee with its President, Secretary and twelve members. It runs classes in the evening where about twenty students including girls come and learn music. It helps Bhagalpur Kala Kendra in performing cultural programmes.

Marwari Sudhar Samiti.—This association was established in 1923 for the uplift of the Marwari community of Bhagalpur district. It has a managing committee with President, Secretary, Treasurer and fifteen members. Each member of the committee has to pay Rs. 3 annually as contribution. Besides, it receives grant of a sum of Rs. 1,000 annually from State and Central Government. This organisation has purchased Barari ghat for selling wood for the purpose of cremation and the association makes money out of it. The branch trains its volunteers for volunteer service. The services of the boys are taken on occasions like public functions and *melas*. It has got a charity fund and the poor students of Marwari community are benefited from it. It also runs a *Vyayaam Shala* for the physical advancement of the people.

Bangiya Sahitya Parishad.—This institution was established in 1912. It is an unregistered institution. It has a building of its own. It has a managing committee with Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and fourteen members. It is a branch of Calcutta Bangiya Sahitya Parishad. It has the arrangement for a library, religious functions, indoor games and physical culture. The library with 3,000 books of Bengali, Hindi and English languages serve as a centre of knowledge and exchange of thoughts. About the social functions of the institution special mention may be made of their performance of Buddha and Rabindra Jayanti. The institution helps the poor families of the town in times of emergency. On the occasion of Puja Vacation it exhibits cultural shows. The members also create a sense of unity among the people and take part in the funeral procession. It receives municipal grant of a sum of Rs. 150 per annum. Besides, it is run by means of public donations and contributions.

Arya Samaj.—It would not be out of place to mention here that the value of the social institutions has been emphasised by religious creeds. The *Arya Samaj* is an institution which was

founded by Swami Dayananda Saraswati. The *Arya Samaj Mandir* was established in Bhagalpur in 1916 and later its followers spread throughout the district. It has a managing committee with President, Vice-President, Secretary and twenty-one members. It is run by means of public donations and contributions. It has a library with 2,500 books in English, Hindi and Urdu languages. It has helped the society to fight the idea of untouchability. It encourages the public for widow and inter-caste marriages and up till now seven hundred widow and one hundred inter-caste marriages have been performed. The Samaj runs a Homoeopathic charitable dispensary. This dispensary is conducted by two qualified doctors and one compounder. Free medical aid and medicines are given to patients.

CHAPTER XVI.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Amarpur.—Amarpur is a township in Banka subdivision of Bhagalpur district and is the headquarters of a police station. The village is situated at a distance of about 13 miles from the Subdivisional headquarters and is connected with a metalled road. The village is connected with the district headquarters, Bhagalpur, by two roads—(*i*) *via* Akbarnagar and (*ii*) *via* Banka. The distance *via* Akbarnagar is about 30 miles and that *via* Banka is about 44 miles. The road *via* Akbarnagar is partly metalled and partly unmetalled and buses ply the whole length of this road only during the dry season. The road *via* Banka is an all-weather road and buses ply on it throughout the year. The nearest railway station is Akbarnagar of Eastern Railway at a distance of about 20 miles.

The area of the village is 313.89 acres. It is bounded on the north by village Dumrawan, on the south by village Khenichak, on the east by village Mohammadpur and on the west by village Banahara.

A comparative statement of population of this village as enumerated in the census of 1951 and 1961 is given below:—

	1951	1961
Number of occupied houses	370	480
Male population	1,113	1,274
Female population	1,038	1,213
Total	2,151	2,497
Male literates	352	508
Female literates	24	100
Total	376	608

One point that is remarkable is that though there has been an increase of 110 in the number of occupied houses the increase in the number of inhabitants is 336 only, a fact which could not be accounted for by the people of the village.

Though the literacy amongst males has increased by less than 50 per cent, the literacy amongst females stands now at four times the previous figure. This is due to the fact that besides the Lower Primary Girls' School there is co-education in the Upper Primary

School in the village. There is one Lower Primary School for boys, one Lower Primary School for girls, one co-educational Upper Primary School and one Middle School in the village. There is one *Madrasa* and one *Maktab* also in the village. Besides these institutions, there is one library which is at present closed due to the differences in the managing committee.

There are two dramatic clubs, *viz.*, (*i*) Azad Hind Dramatic Club and (*ii*) Amarpur Dramatic Club. The village has a flourishing football team. The village has two temples, four *Thakurbaris*, one *Durga Asthan*, two *Kali Asthans*, one mosque and one *Idgah* where *Id* prayers are offered.

The population may be divided into the following castes in order of population—(*i*) Suri, (*ii*) Goldar, (*iii*) Kasera, (*iv*) Koiri, (*v*) Chamar, (*vi*) Muslim, (*vii*) Halwai, (*viii*) Gowala and (*ix*) Dom. The main occupation of the people is—(*i*) business and small-scale industries and (*ii*) cultivation. The small-scale industries are pottery, *biri* making, metal work, jewellery, *Gur* and *Bhura* making. Of the article manufactured, *Gur* and *Bhura* are exported to Burdwan and Howrah and brass utensils to other places. The crops grown in the village are paddy and sugarcane. The village has four industrial co-operative societies dealing with four small-scale industries. The village has a number of private medical practitioners. The village has a *Gram Panchayat*, a block office and sub-post office. There is one District Board dispensary and one high school situated at village Dumrawan at a distance of 2 miles from the village.

Besides the permanent shops there is a *hat* which is held on Wednesdays and Fridays. *Melas* are held in the village on the occasion of *Sarswati Puja* in the month of *Magh*, *Durga Puja* in the month of *Aswin*, *Kali Puja* in the month of *Kartik*. A big *mela* is held on the occasion of *Muharram* as well.

The village is much congested and the incidence of sanitation is very poor. Cholera as an epidemic broke out in August, 1961 causing a large number of deaths. The village was visited at this time and had a deserted appearance and people were very panicky.

Amhara Bundh.—It is an irrigation project in a picturesque setting, formed by constructing a huge earthen dam across the gap between two chains of hills through which rivulet used to flow. It is a very big reservoir of water and irrigates several thousand acres of land in Belhar *Thana*. This irrigation project was constructed by the Banaili Raj, a picnic spot.

Banaili Raj (*Bhagalpur*).—Regarding Banaili Raj it may be mentioned that it was a estate situated in Purnea, Malda, Monghyr and Bhagalpur. The estate derived its name from

Banaili, a village in pargana Haveli in Purnea district. It contained the residence of the founder of the estate and continued to be the family headquarters until the late Raja Lilanand Singh Bahadur moved to Deorhi Ramnagar, a few miles distant from Banaili and thence to Deorhi Champanagar. Deorhi Ramnagar was the seat of his eldest son, Raja Padmanand Singh Bahadur, and Deorhi Champanagar of his two younger sons, Kumar Kalanand Singh and Kumar Krityanand Singh.

Sir William Hunter in his Statistical Accounts of Bengal (Volume XV, Monghyr and Purnea, page 17) gave an interesting account of the Muhammadan Rajas of Kharagpur. It appeared that the original holders of this estate were of Kshetouri caste who held not only this estate and its dependencies but also the estates of Barkour and Manihari in Santhal Parganas district and in fact, according to traditions, there were fifty-two Kshetouri chiefs in this part of the country.

The founder of the Banaili Raj family was Hazari Choudhury, who acquired by purchase, about 1780 A. D., *pargana* Tirkharda in Purnea district. His son, Dular Singh, was a Government Kanungo in Purnea in about 1790 and acquired property in Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Purnea in about the year 1800 A. D. And on his death, after some litigation, the estates were divided equally between his two sons, Raja Vedanand Singh and Kumar Rudranand Singh, grand-father of the Srinagar Kumars.

There was litigation between them, which resulted in the division of the property into two equal parts—one part being given to Raja Vedanand Singh, and the other part to Kumar Rudranand Singh.

In Bhagalpur district it originally included the Lakshmipur estate consisting of properties in the district, but before 1840 A.D. (in consequence of the recommendation of the Sadar Diwani Adalat) the Lakshmipur estate was severed from the parent estate of Mahalat Kharagpur and was formed into a separate estate paying revenue directly to the Government instead of paying the same through the Zamindar of Mahalat Kharagpur.

Raja Vedanand Singh subsequently purchased Mahalat Kharagpur in 1851, was succeeded by his son Raja Lilanand Singh Bahadur, who also added to the estate by purchasing Chandpur Hussain and Taluq Khajuria. Raja Lilanand Singh died in 1883 and was succeeded by his son Raja Padmanand Singh Bahadur, leaving a minor son, Kumar Kalanand Singh, and a posthumous son, Kumar Krityanand Singh. In 1888 a suit was instituted by the Kumars Kalanand Singh and Krityanand Singh, the minors through their mother, Rani Sitabati in the court of District Judge of Bhagalpur, which ended in a compromise

decree, under which Kumar Kalanand Singh and Kumar Krityanand Singh were declared to be owners of nine annas of the Banaili Raj and Raja Padmanand Singh of the remaining seven annas.

In 1903, Kumar Chandranand Singh, son of Raja Padmanand Singh Bahadur, brought a suit against his father for partition and other relief, which also ended in a compromise decree, under which the son was declared to be owner of a 3½ annas share and Raja Padmanand Singh owner of the remaining 3½ annas share of the Banaili Raj. Subsequently, however, in September 1905, Raja Padmanand Singh Bahadur transferred his rights and interests to his son Kumar Chandranand Singh, so that the owners of the Raj were Kumars Kalanand Singh and Krityanand Singh to the extent of nine annas and Kumar Chandranand Singh to the extent of seven annas. The Collector of Bhagalpur was appointed receiver under the orders of the District Judge of Bhagalpur, and he gave Kumars Kalanand Singh and Krityanand Singh a lease of the entire seven annas share for 12 years from 1311 to 1323 *Fasli*. The seven annas share was involved in debt to the extent of about 50 lakhs of rupees, the nine annas proprietors Kumar Kalanand Singh and Kumar Krityanand Singh being their principal creditors. The Court of Wards took charge of the seven annas share on behalf of Kumar Chandranand Singh, who was declared a disqualified proprietor on his own application, but the actual management of the entire Banaili Raj had been in the hands of the Kumars Kalanand Singh and Krityanand Singh since 1904. The rent roll of the entire State was about 14 lakhs a year, and the revenue and cesses payable annually were Rs. 2,56 244. In addition to this Rs. 17,445 were payable to superior landlords on account of rent.

The Banaili Raj has been one of the premier zamindar families in Bihar not only for the extent of the estate but also because of the generous patronage the family has given to the cause of Art, Literature and Culture. The Banaili Raj has sponsored a number of educational institutions, libraries, etc., in Bhagalpur district and elsewhere. The Tej Narain Banaili College in Bhagalpur is an instance. The family has produced several writers in English and Hindi and for some time one of the family members edited a Hindi magazine "Ganga" which was of a high standard. The family has also given liberal donations to various cultural societies and literary writers. Sports have received their particular patronage. Some of the members had encouraged *Shikar*, polo and other sports by taking active part in them. Krityanand Singh was a keen *Shikari* and his books in English on *Shikar* give us a glimpse of the fast declining wild life in Bihar. The house has also patronised oriental learning and culture and has sponsored a number of *tols* and *Maktabs*.

Since the passing of Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, this Raj has been vested in the State.*

BANKA SUBDIVISION

The Subdivision has an area of 1,199 square miles and a population of 5,87,760 (1951 Census), the number of persons per square mile being 496. In 1901 the population of Banka Subdivision was 4,33,499. This statistics shows that the population increased in the period of fifty years upto 1,54,261. According to the census of 1961, the population is 6,88,776 (3,47,040 males and 3,41,736 females). The total number of literate persons are 1,11,890, i. e., 91,824 males and 20,066 females.

Incharge of the administration of the subdivision is an officer either of the Bihar Civil Service (Executive Branch) or the Indian Administrative Service. He is assisted by two Sub-Deputy Collectors, at least one of whom is a Magistrate of the First Class who remains incharge of the subdivision during the absence of the Subdivisional Officer. As most of the time of the Subdivisional Officer is usually taken up with criminal work and in emergencies such as flood or scarcity, the brunt of the work of putting into operation the remedial measures falls on him. The Deputy Collector is incharge of Land Reforms and revenue matters. The Subdivisional Officer is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate.

With the taking over of the zamindaries, Government have stepped into the shoes of the landlords and have, therefore, undertaken the work of Irrigation on a large scale. Two Circle Officers, both Sub-Deputy Collectors, have been posted solely for the work of Minor Irrigation and zamindari abolition. The Subdivisional Officer has to be incharge of these two departments also.

The Subdivisional Officer is also responsible for the execution of all planning schemes in the district and as the head of the subdivisional planning committee it is his duty to co-ordinate the function of all the nation-building departments of the district. As the Chief Executive Officer of the subdivision he is responsible for maintaining law and order and the smooth running of administration at the subdivisional level.

The separation of judiciary from executive has been introduced in the subdivision of Banka since 1957. The judicial powers are vested in the Munsif-Judges,

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*Also see old *Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* by J. Byrne (1911)—pages 157 to 162 and old *Gazetteer of Purnea* by O'Malley (1911)—pages 183 to 185.

The last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur, 1911, by Mr. J. Byrne, mentioned that there were 12 Honorary Magistrates at Banka But now there are two Honorary Magistrates at Banka. One Honorary Magistrate holds First Class power and another Second Class power.

After independence was achieved in 1947, the character of the administration has been undergoing a great change. Briefly the State has assumed the role of a Welfare State. Development work and projects were introduced. More agrarian reforms came in adding to the work of the Subdivisional Officer.

The Subdivisional Officer of Banka had the following gazetted officers under him on the 31st March, 1961:—

(1) Deputy Collector incharge Land Reforms and Development—1.
(2) Sub-Deputy Collector—1.
(3) Judicial Magistrate—1.
(4) Munsif Magistrate—1.
(5) Honorary Magistrates—2.
(6) Anchal Adhikari-*cum*-Block Development Officers—7.

Gram Panchayat.—The Gram Panchayat plays an important role in the general administration of subdivision. The Bihar Gram Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, was passed in 1947. The Act was put into operation in Banka subdivision from 1949. The Gram Panchayat is entrusted with multifarious powers and functions. It undertakes planning and construction of roads, wells and works necessary for the villages. The Panchayat is to organise a voluntary force to check crime and to give protection. The Panchayao is vested with judicial powers but the Panchayat is enjoined tg try to bring about a compromise first and only if it fails in bringin about a compromise to decide a case.

Generally a Panchayat is formed in an area with a total population of 2,000 persons. Normally a number of villages falling within a radius of two mles is grouped togetherunder one Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat is headed by a *Mukhiya* who is assisted by an executive committee consisting of 13 to 15 members elected on the basis of adult suffrage. The executive committee controls the annual budget and acts as a check on *Mukhiya*. The *Mukhiya's* post has become coveted one in the village economy and it seldom goes uncontested.

There is a panel of 15 Panches or members which has a head known as the *Sarpanch*. The chief job of the *Sarpanch* is to preside over the Gram Cutchery meetings and to try cases with the help of two Panches who are selected by the contesting parties.

The official Gram Panchayat consists of a *Mukhiya* and an executive committee responsible for general administration and a Sarpanch and member *Panches* for administration of criminal and civil justice. They are empowered to try petty criminal cases and petty civil suits. At present there are 165 official Gram Panchayats in Banka Subdivision.

Incidence of crime.—The incidence in Banka subdivision is quite high. The number of petty crimes such as thefts and burglaries have no doubt increased during the post-war years because of very high prices and the drought which affected this subdivision during the years of 1950 and 1951. Some special types of crimes which need particular mention, were those connected with 1942 movement.

The political upheaval of 1942 did not leave this subdivision untouched. In fact, Banka played a very important role.

The hills, dales and the almost impenetrable jungles in the southern and western portions of the subdivision offered safety and shelter to those who rose in revolt and were known as "*Siaram Dal*" and "*Parsuram Dal*" and the military and pickets stationed at Banka and other places in the interior appeared to be powerless against their depredations. For some time at least, it appeared as if Government had lost their hold over Banka subdivision. Among the acts of violence committed by angry mobs, mention may be made of the burning down of Amarpur and Belhar Police Stations, Chandan outpost and Sambhuganj, Belhar and Bhitia Inspection Bungalows. Bridges and culverts on roads were either damaged or totally dismantled.

There is one Deputy Superintendent of Police at Banka who is the administrative head of the Police department of Banka subdivision. He is assisted by Sub-Inspectors of Police. The relation of the Police with the public appeared to have shown some distinct signs of improvement during the year 1960. The people in general have more or less appreciated the actions taken by the Police in detecting the crimes, in maintaining the law and order, etc. The approach of the Police towards public has definitely changed and now the people think the Police to be one of the limbs of the same body and extend co-operation whenever so required. The crime position of this subdivision as a whole remained static when compared with previous years. When the dacoity situation is compared with the figures of previous years, i. e., 1957, 1958 the same in the year 1960 has shown much improvement. There were 72 dacoities in the year 1957 and 31 in the year 1958 but in 1960 only 24 dacoities. This improvement is mainly because of the detection of old and new gangs, some outstanding arrests of notorious criminals and a more purposive and studied exercise of surveillance on the active criminals.

Banka subdivision used to have outposts at Bhatkund, P.-S. Dhoraiya, Panjwara, P.-S. Banka, Chilkore, P.-S. Rajaun, Chandan, P.-S. Katoria, Phulidumar P.-S. Katoria and Khesar, P.-S. Belhar. At present only one outpost is running, out of these posts, at Phulidumar. Chandan is now a full-fledged police station.

Subdivisional Election Office, Banka.—The Subdivisional Officer is the subdivisional Election Officer and for day to day work he is assisted by the Second Officer. The Subdivisional Officer is the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.

There are altogether four Assembly constituencies, namely, Banka, Dhoraiya, Amarpur and Katoria. Katoria constituency is a double member constituency, one for Scheduled Caste and one for the general.

There are two parliamentary constituencies in Banka Subdivision, namely, Banka and Dhoraiya. The Banka constituency consists of whole Assembly constituency excluding Dhoraiya constituency, Deoghar and Jasidih. The Commissioner is the Returning Officer.

Co-operative Department.—The Circle Office, Banka, was started on 1st October 1958 and is under the control of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, and its divisional head is the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhagalpur Division, Bhagalpur. The Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bihar with his headquarters at Patna is the administrative head of the co-operative department.

At present there are six blocks in this circle which is functioning in a full-fledged manner. There is one Co-operative Inspector and one local Auditor, Co-operative Societies, posted by the department in each Community Development Block and the general area is looked after by the Central Co-operative Bank Limited. Besides these, there are seven local Auditors, six Co-operative Extension Supervisors, five Managers of Vyapar Mandal Co-operative Societies and other staff help the Assistant Registrar in development work. The main aim of the Co-operative Department is to look after the proper functioning of the Co-operative Societies

There is one branch office of the Bhagalpur Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., under the Assistant Manager. The entire function of the Bank is under the management of the Board with the Chairmanship of the Subdivisional Officer, as ex-officio. The Honorary Secretary is the executive representative of the Bank.

The progress achieved by the Co-operative Societies will be apparent from the statistics for 30th June, 1956 to 30th June, 1960 noted below:—

Type of Co-operative Societies.	Total number of Co-operative Societies upto 30th June 1956.	Total number of Co-operative Societies upto 30th June 1960.
1. Credit Co-operative Societies	58	57
2. Multipurpose Co-operative Societies	220	298
3. Weavers' Co-operative Societies	12	12
4. Co-operative Stores	4	4
5. *Vyapar Mandal* Co-operative Societies	2	5
6. Large sized M. P. C. S.	1	4
7. Graingolas	2	2
8. Oilmen's Co-operative Societies	Nil	19
9. *Tar Gur* Co-operative Society	Nil	1
10. Milk Union Co-operative Society	Nil	1
11. Blacksmith Co-operative Societies	Nil	2
12. Brass metal Co-operative Society	Nil	1
13. Pottery Industry Co-operative Societies	Nil	4
14. Forest Co-operative Society	Nil	1
15. Hand-pounding Co-operative Societies	Nil	9
16. *Gur Khandsari* Co-operative Societies	Nil	9
17. Farming Co-operative Societies	Nil	7
18. Tassar Co-operative Industry Societies	Nil	2
19. Carpentry Industry Society	Nil	1
20. *Gramodyog* Co-operative Society	Nil	1
21. *Rangai-Chhapai* Industry Co-operative Society ..	Nil	1
22. Tailors Industry Co-operative Society	Nil	1

The total number of membership is 16,262 on 30th June 1960 as against 6,554 on 30th June, 1956. The total amount of share capital is Rs. 3,08,278 on 30th June, 1960 as against Rs. 45,660 on 30th June, 1956.

Animal Husbandry Department.—The Subdivisional Animal Husbandry Officer, Banka, with his headquarters at Banka is incharge of the Animal Husbandry Department in the Subdivision. He is under the administrative control of the District Animal

Husbandry Officer, Bhagalpur with his headquarters at Bhagalpur.

The Subdivisional Animal Husbandry Officer is assisted by seven Extension Supervisors and eight Touring Veterinary Assistant Surgeons who are posted in each block, namely, Katoria, Baunsi, Amarpur, Banka, Dhoraiya, Barahat, Chandan and Belhar.

To improve the local breeds of cattle, the two schemes, namely, bull distribution and artificial insemination are in operation.

(a) *Bull distribution*.—This scheme was started in First Five-Year Plan and also has been taken up in the Second Five and Third Five-Year Plans. Under this scheme Hariana bulls are distributed in each block and Rs. 10 is given to each bull-keeper per month for the maintenance.

(b) *Artificial Insemination Scheme*.—An Artificial Insemination Centre was opened at Banka on the 5th April, 1957. Besides this, three sub-centres were also opened in 1957 at Amarpur, Rajaun and Baunsi. One Livestock Overseer remains in charge of the main centre at Banka and stockmen look after the sub-centres.

Eradication of Rinderpest.—Under this scheme it has been decided to eradicate rinderpest disease by vaccinating all the heads of cattle.

Fodder Development.—To encourage the farmers for fodder growing, seeds and cutting of different types of fodder are distributed to the farmers free of cost.

Cattle shows.—To encourage the cattle owners for improving their livestock one cattle show in each block is organised once in a year, and one district cattle show in a year.

Registration Office.—There is an office of the Sub-Registrar at Banka under the control of the Subdivisional Officer. The District Sub-Registrar is the administrative head of the Registration Department under the immediate control of the District Magistrate. The Inspector-General of Registration, Patna, is the head of the Department.

The Subdivisional Sub-Registrar assists the Subdivisional Officer in supervising the work of the Sub-Registry office in the subdivision. The total number of documents of all sorts presented for registration in 1950 was 10,127 and in 1951 it was 14,817. The bonds

executed by loanees obtaining various kinds of Government loans for agricultural purposes form a fair percentage of such documents, in these two years which were years of drought and scarcity.

The statistics below would show the number of documents registered, receipts and expenditure of the Banka Subdivision from 1950 to 1960 :—

Year.	Documents registered.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
1950	10,127	63,591	11,958
1951	14,817	85,357	18,322
1952	10,344	64,547	13,057
1953	9,092	57,435	12,705
1954	9,286	57,738	13,280
1955	9,207	54,086	12,299
1956	9,683	57,061	12,079
1957	12,183	69,141	14,607
1958	13,295	73,768	17,336
1959	13,271	82,614	17,082
1960	13,689	89,891	16,737

Jail Department.—The Medical Officer of Banka Hospital is the administrative head of the Sub-Jail, Banka. He has been deputed by Government as part-time Superintendent of Jail. Under the Medical Officer one Assistant Jailor, two head warders and eight warders are working. But the warders are posted or transferred by the Superintendent of Jail, Bhagalpur and the Assistant Jailor is under the direct control of Inspector-General of Prisons, Bihar.

The Sub-Jail at Banka whose capacity is 72 but it has usually a larger population of prisoners. There is no industry in this sub-jail and only under-trial and short-term prisoners are kept in the sub-jail. After conviction prisoners are sent to Central Jail, Bhagalpur.

Public Works Department.—The headquarters of Banka P.W.D. Subdivision was transferred from Baunsi to Banka in 1955. The Subdivision is under the charge of Subdivisional Officer, P.W.D. with his headquarters at Banka. He is the administrative head of the Subdivision. He has to supervise the execution of the scheme, look after the work of the Assistant Engineers and Overseers and to control the expenditure and give payment to the contractors.

Since this subdivision started functioning at its Banka headquarters, Banka-Amarpur, Amarpur-Shatkund and Banka-Katoria

Roads were transferred from District Board to Public Works Department. Banka-Amarpur Road, twelve miles in length was improved in years 1955—57. About 800′ long causeway costing about Rs. three lakhs was constructed over Orhani river which is an object of exhibition, so far as its technique of construction, alignment and site are concerned. Later on Amarpur-Shakund Road, twelve miles long was also improved but about one mile could not be done due to difficulties in acquisition of the land in that strip.

Between years 1958—61, Banka-Katoria Road (20 miles) was also improved. Prior to this road, Katoria thana was rendered an island during rainy season. This road by connecting Katoria and its vicinity with Banka and consequently Bhagalpur and other places has played a very important role by bringing a new phase to it.

The P. W. D. of Banka Subdivision has taken over two big building projects, namely, Banka Government Girls High English School and another thirty-bedded hospital building. The first one is nearing completion and the second one is in progress.

The soil of Banka is the worst type of black soil. It has been observed that there are big cracks in the soil and the crack goes up to 6′ to 7′ depth below the ground level. In spite of this no cracks or any type of failure was observed in the building constructed by P.W.D. This indicates an advanced and successful use of technique in the design, planning and construction of buildings.

Education Department.—The Education Department of the Banka Subdivision is controlled by the Subdivisional Education Officer with his headquarters at Banka. He is under the direct control of District Education Officer with his headquarters at Bhagalpur.

There is one Deputy Inspector of Schools in Banka Subdivision under the Subdivisional Education Officer. Below the Deputy Inspector of Schools there are twelve Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the subdivision, each of whom is responsible for the educational activities in his respective circle. There is one Deputy Inspectress of Schools in Banka subdivision to help the District Inspectress of Schools in her activities regarding girls education in the district. She is under the direct control of District Inspectress, Bhagalpur.

There are fourteen recognised High Schools, three Secondary High Schools, fifty-six Middle Schools, six hundred and forty-two Lower and ten Upper Primary Schools running under the supervision of Subdivisional Education Officer, Banka. Besides these, there are ten basic schools, one college and one Government girls middle school running in Banka subdivision. There is one physical training school, Banka which is under the direct control of District Education Officer, Bhagalpur.

Stamps.—There is no Sub-Treasury Officer at Banka but the Second Officer of the Banka Subdivisional Office is in charge of Sub-treasury office. The Subdivisional Officer is the head of the Sub-Treasury Office.

The revenue from the sale of stamps is an important source of income to the State Government.

The statistics of receipts from sale of stamps from 1957 to 1961 are the following:—

Years	Receipts
	Rs.
1956-57	1,12,125
1957-58	1,28,205
1958-59	1,41,915
1959-60	2,23,616
1960-61	2,35,317

There had been a tremendous increase in revenue derived from stamps which is about 50 per cent in four years.

Forest Range Offices.—The Forest Range Offices of Banka Subdivision are placed under the Range Officers with their headquarters at Banka and Katoria. The two Range Officers, one at Banka and another at Katoria are under the direct control of the Divisional Forest Officer, Deoghar with his headquarters at Deoghar.

Banka and Katoria Ranges were established in 1946. Both ranges have done good progress in their work. Banka Range consists of 94 square miles demarcated area. Katoria Range consists of 70 square miles demarcated area. There are four beats, namely, Banka, Laxhmipur, Vitiya and Belhar and there are twenty-five sub-beats under Banka Range. Sub-beats are looked after by Forest Guards.

The afforestation work is not done by Banka Range but the Katoria Range manages the afforestation work.

Agricultural Department.—The Subdivisional Agriculture Officer, Banka is the administrative head of the department. He is under the administrative control of the District Agriculture Officer, Bhagalpur with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Director of Agriculture is the administrative head of the Agriculture Department at the State level.

The Subdivisional Agriculture Officer is assisted by a team of subject matter specialists in Engineering, Marketing, Plant Protection, Horticulture, Well-boring and Fishery. Their job is to co-ordinate

the result of research from laboratories to the farmers in the fields and to train the village level workers and Agricultural Extension Supervisors in different blocks on latest findings of research for disseminating them. The Subdivisional Agriculture Officer controls the activities of the Agricultural Extension Supervisors working in eight blocks of the Banka subdivision. In Banka Subdivision there is an Agriculture Engineer, Well-boring Supervisor, Agriculture Inspector, Horticulture Inspector and a Fishery Nursery Supervisor for fishery development work.

The agricultural programme is executed through the Agricultural Extension Supervisors and village level workers posted in Blocks.

Demonstrations are frequently held in the Block area. The cultivators are taught the improved methods of cultivation advocated by the department under the supervision of District Agriculture Officer. Field demonstrations of standing crops are held during every season. The actual demonstration of improved method of cultivation is exhibited in every famous *mela* of the district.

The Subdivisional Agriculture farm is situated at Jagatpur and has an area of 30 acres, where experiments and trials are done. In the year 1960-61 Sambhuganj Block was converted into Community Development Stage I and Dhoraiya into Pre-Extension Block from Agriculture Extension Block. In April, 1960, Agriculture Extension Blocks, Barahat and Belhar were opened with five village level workers and Agricultural Inspector in each block.

Industry Office.—The Industry Department is under the charge of Subdivisional Officer, Banka. There is one Inspector of Industries at Banka with his headquarters at Banka. He helps the Subdivisional Officer in every respect. There are Industrial Extension Supervisors who are posted in each Community Development Block of the subdivision.

The Banka Subdivision is not industrialised. About 90 per cent of the population still depends on agriculture. There is one *Dari Kendra* (carpet centre) at Banka and one Tailoring centre at Jagatpur, P.-S. Banka. The Subdivisional Officer, Banka, has given money on loan to villagers for the development of Cottage Industry. Some persons have taken loan for shoe factory, tailoring and poultry, etc.

Malaria Department.—The Malaria Department was established at Banka in the month of February, 1959. The Anti-Malaria Officer, Banka is the administrative head of the circle with his headquarters at Banka. He is under the administrative control of the Chief Malaria Officer, Patna with his headquarters at Patna.

The Anti-Malaria Officer is assisted by Assistant Anti-Malaria Officers at Banka, Katoria, Jhajha and Lakshmipur. Besides them

there are 20 Malaria Inspectors and 20 Malaria Field Workers under the guidance of Anti-Malaria Officer. There are four sub-units, namely, Banka, Katoria, Jhajha and Lakshmipur under the jurisdiction and supervision of Anti-Malaria Officer, Banka.

D. D. T. is also being used by the Malaria Department. It has brought about a desired effect to a very great extent.

Excise Department.—There is an Inspector for this department at the head of the administration at the subdivisional level. He is under the direct control of the Superintendent of Excise, Bhagalpur. The Superintendent of Excise is under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioner of Excise.

The Banka Range has been divided into two circles, namely, Banka and Katoria. There are three Sub-Inspectors in this range, one for Banka circle and one for Katoria and one for ware-house which is at Banka proper.

Excise duty is levied on country spirit, *ganja*, *bhang* and *tari*. Country spirit is the best source of income of Excise Department.

Physical Aspects

Location.—The subdivision Banka has a total area of 1,194 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Bhagalpur, on the east by Godda, on the south by Deoghar and Dumka and on the west by Monghyr. The total population of this subdivision according to the census of 1951 was 5,87,760. According to the census of 1961, the population is 6,88,776 (3,47,040 males and 3,41,736 females) having 1,29,891 households. The total number of literate persons is 1,11,890, i.e., 91,824 males and 20,066 females.

Topography.—The greater part of this subdivision consists of alluvial plain and the whole subdivision is almost hilly. The plain area is drained by a number of rivers which emerge from hill ranges. During the rains they swell up and they flow swiftly but in dry season some of them are dried and some of them dwindle into small streams.

Hill.—This subdivision is full of hills and they are famous for their importance. The important hills of this subdivision are Mandar, Jesthaur and Jharna. There is a long chain of hills from Jesthaur hill to Chandan from where Chandan river flows. This hilly range presents a very beautiful picture to the travellers. This area is full of jungle.

River System.—The rivers, which flow through this subdivision originate from the hills. The rivers generally flow from south to north. The important rivers of this subdivision are Chandan,

Barua, Katoria, Orhani and Cheer. Among them the Chandan is most important.

The river Chandan rises from the southern hill of the subdivision which is known as Chandan hill. It enters into the subdivision from south-west and flows northward and meets Ganga at Bhagalpur. It brings too much sand and erodes its banks very swiftly. The Barua river rises somewhere at Jhajha in the district of Monghyr. It also meets Ganga.

Climate.—The climate of Banka subdivision is very healthy. There is no local disease of the subdivision.

The year can be divided into well marked seasons—the cold weather lasts from November to middle of March, hot weather from mid March to June and rainy season from June to October. Generally rain ends in early October but sometimes monsoon continues till the end of this month. July and August are months of heavy rains but they are fairly cool. During the months of April, May and June the atmosphere becomes stuffy and uncomfortable due to the heat of the sun.

Fauna.—Tigers, leopards, buffaloes, deer, nilgai, and wild pigs as well as game birds are found in quite large number in the jungles of the subdivision. The southern and western part of the subdivision are full of jungles. It has the reputation of one of the best shooting places in Bihar.

Fish.—The river Chandan at rainy season contains Katla, Tengra, Garai. Mirca, Pothia and other small fish. Hilsa and Rebu are very scarcely found in this river. Fish is not found in this subdivision in sufficient quantity. Generally all rivers are dried up in summer season.

General.—At present there are eight police-stations, namely, Banka, Rajaun, Belhar, Chandan Dhoraiya, Katoria, Baunsi and Sambhuganj.

The headquarters of the subdivision is Banka town. The Chandan river flows through the eastern side of the town which remains dry for the most part of the year. A branch of Chandan river passes through the middle of the Banka town. It is fed by Chandan river and the rain water and it works as the drain of the town.

Banka-Belhar unmetalled road (20 miles) passes through the town. This town has two high schools for boys and one Girls' High School and several Government houses. The town is small but it is quite neat and clean. There is *Dari Kendra* (Carpet centre) in the town. There is a Government hospital.

Maithil Brahmans predominate in the subdivision forming about 70 per cent population. The other castes are Rajput, Mohammadan, Kadar, Goala, Santhal, Teli, Koiri and Mushar.

In this subdivision houses generally are built of mud and bamboo splits with tile and straw roofing. Some of these houses display a great aesthetic sense and look attractive. Use of corrugated iron sheets for roofing is increasing day by day. People have also started constructing *pucca* houses in the mufassil areas as well.

The people are very hardy. It is mainly a paddy-growing area. Their staple food is rice, *dal* and vegetables. *Murhi* (fried rice), *Gur*, *Chura*, curd and *Ghughani* (boiled Gram) constitute their favourite tiffin. Use of *Biri* tobacco, Pan or betel and *Supari* is very common. People are very fond of sweets.

In this subdivision many famous weekly *hats* are held namely, Bara hat, Banka hat, Nawada hat and Shyam Bazar hat. In these weekly hats consumers' goods and livestock are sold. Barahat is famous for rice because businessmen come from Bengal and Santhal Pargana to buy rice and paddy. Bara hat is held on Tuesdays and Fridays in the week.

Banka.—Mr. J. Byrne, in District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur, 1911, mentions :—

> "A village situated on the Chandan river in 24°—53′ N and 86°56′ E, headquarters of the subdivision of the same name in that part of Bhagalpur district that lies south of the Ganges. In 1901 the population of the village was 1,091. It contains the usual subdivisional offices and court, a munsifi and a subsidiary jail with accommodation for 12 prisoners."

There have been fundamental changes in Banka since Mr. J. Byrne's days. Banka has expanded enormously and is now a beautiful town in the district of Bhagalpur.

Banka is situated on the bank of river Chandan in the east and Orhani in the west. There is a one mile long strong bridge on Chands in river which connects Banka to Bhagalpur. Its population according to the census of 1961 is 12,514 (6,612 males and 5,902 females). The total number of literate persons are 3,951, i.e., 2,822 males and 1,129 females. It has got a police-station of the same name. At present there are 2,304 houses. Many of the houses are shared by more than one family.

The original people of Banka are Maithil Brahman, Muslims, Kadar, Marwaris and Shuris. They speak Maithili and Hindi

dialect. When the town grew, people from different districts of Bihar came down to work here and settle.

The town is at the junction of roads from all sides—(i) Banka-Deoghar Road, (ii) Banka-Amarpur Road, (iii) Banka-Sambhuganj Road, (iv) Banka-Katoria Road. Banka-Deoghar Road connects Bhagalpur to Bengal and other roads also connect Bihar, Bengal and Uttar Pradesh respectively. Buses and trucks ply on these to distant places with passengers and commodities. In Banka there is no road which bears the name of the leaders or none of the prominent persons of Banka.

Banka *hatia* is held on Mondays and Thursdays in the week.

There are three lower primary schools, two upper primary schools, two high schools for boys and one for girls. In recent years, Durga *Puja* and Sarswati *Puja* of school children surpassed all the other festivals for popularity. One Degree College has been established in 1959 by Pandit Bali Ram Sharma. There is Physical Basic Training School at Banka where there is provision for co-education. There is one Public Library, namely, Kshama Devi Pustakalaya and one Bar Library. The Bar Library is meant for pleaders. In this library all reports of High Courts of India are available.

There is one Government hospital. Another new hospital is under construction just near the present hospital. Banka has a Community Development Block. The Government of Bihar have a scheme to supply electric power very soon. Electric poles and other preparations in this connection have already started.

Bausi.—The last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur, 1911 by J. Byrne, mentions as follows:—

> "A village in the south of the district situated near the base of Mandar hill in 24°48′ N., and 87°2′ E. The population in 1901 was 649. The numerous buildings, tanks, large wells and stone figures found for a mile or two round the base of the sacred hill show that a great city must once have stood here. The people of the neighbourhood say that it contained 52 markets, 53 streets and 88 tanks. According to local tradition on the night of Devali festival a large building (the ruins of which still exist, and the walls of which contain an immense number of small holes, evidently intended to hold *Chiraghs*, or small native lamps) was formerly illuminated by a hundred thousand of these lights, each householder being allowed to supply only one. How or when the city fell into ruin is not known though popular tradition ascribes its destruction to Kalapahar. A Sanskrit inscription on a stone triumphal arch seems to show that the city was in

existence less than 300 years ago. After the destruction of the temple of Madhusudan on Mandar Hill, the image of the god was brought to Bausi where it now remains. Once a year, on the Pous Sankranti day, the image is carried from Baunsi to the foot of the hill, and is swing on the triumphal arch above referred to. About 50,000 pilgrims assemble at this festival from all parts of the country, to bathe in the sacred tank at the foot of the hill, and a fair is held which lasts for 15 days."

Due to lapse of time since J. Byrne's days there had been some fundamental changes in Baunsi. It has a good market and a Railway station of Eastern Railway. The area of this village is 507 acres and the number of houses is 1,060. The population of this village according to 1951 census is 5,309 (2,691 males and 2,618 females). The total number of literate persons is 530, *i.e.*, 400 males and 130 females. The incidence of literacy seems to be very low. Mostly people of this village are engaged in cultivation, production other than cultivation, commerce, transport and miscellaneous occupations.

Baunsi is now the headquarters of a block of the same name which has done progress in development work. This village, thana number 419 is under the jurisdiction of a police-station of the same name. The village has one post office, one lower primary school, one upper primary school, one middle girls' school and one middle school for boys, one high school, a State dispensary and a library.

This village is going to be electrified. Since the functioning of a block of the same name, the villagers have been much benefited by the construction of borings, tube-wells, irrigational wells and *pucca* wells.

Baunsi *mela* is very important in Bhagalpur district. It is held in the month of January at the time of *Makar Sankranti* to which visitors come from all over India. The fair lasts for about a month. Baunsi *Hatia* takes place on Saturday and Wednesday in a week. The villagers come to buy and sell their commodities.

Kharahra.—A village in the Banka subdivision situated at a distance of 23 miles south of Bhagalpur. The Barahat Railway station of the Eastern Railway is in this village. Barahat station is at a distance of 3 miles east from the village. A metalled road runs from this village to Barahat station which is connected with Bhagalpur-Dumka Road.

The Railway line runs from Bhagalpur to Mandar Hill. The village is connected with Bhagalpur, both by rail and metalled road (Bhagalpur-Dumka Road).

It is said that long ago this village was in the shape of *Khandhar* (ruins). After some time people used to live here and began to call it *Kharahra*'in place of *Khandhar*.

It has a middle school, a Government lower and upper primary school and library. It has also a post office and a drama *bhawan* which has been constructed by the villagers and it has a beautiful site. Late Satish Chandra Jha of this village was shot down in the movement of 1942 in front of the old Secretariat, Patna. A library is running in the village by the name of late Satish Chandra Jha.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Barahat *Anchal* and its police-station is Banka. The population of this village is 1,048 and the number of houses 500. The population of this village according to 1961 census is 2,789 (1,326 males and 1,463 females). The total number of literate persons is 893, i.e., 568 males and 325 females.

The village is mostly populated by Maithil Brahmans and Mohammadans, where there is good mutual relation between them. Maithil Brahmans are very religious minded. It is learnt that every family keeps one of the rooms specially reserved for the deity where the members of the family particularly females do religious performance daily.

Mandar Hill.—Regarding the old history of this place, last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur, 1911, by J. Byrne, mentions as follows :—

> "This hill is about 700 feet high and is situated about 30 miles south of the town of Bhagalpur, in 24°50′ N and 87°4′ E. The hill which consists of a huge mass of granite overgrown near the summit with low jungle, is very sacred in Hindu mythology:, the sacred places are being described in the Mandar Mahatma, a portion of Skanda Puran. The oldest building are two temples now in a ruin near the top of the hill, approached by steps down out of the rock. There are attributed to Raja 'Chhatra Sen' of the Chol Tribe, who lived before the time of the Muhammadans. They are two inscriptions and rude carvings on the rock, and numerous small artificial tanks have been cut in the side of the hill. The largest of these, known as the Sita Kund tank is 100 feet long and 500 feet wide and is situated in front of the ruins of the oldest temple at a level of 500 feet above the surrounding plain."

Since 1911, a lot of materials and information have been collected in connection with Mandar hill. The following is a summary of what has been collected :—

Mandar hill is situated at a distance of three miles from Mandar Hill Railway Station, the terminus of Bhagalpur-Mandar hill branch of the Eastern Railway and is one mile distant from Bhagalpur-Dumka Road.

At the foot of the hill there is a tank called *Papharini* and from the vicinity of the tank three routes lead to the top of the hill. One of the paths which is much used originates from a little to the east of big bare stone near the tank. On this path stairs have been cut out of the stone. It is said that these stairs were cut under the orders of a king named Ugra Bhairab. A few yards up this path there is a beheaded idol of either Durga or Kali. A little higher up there is a small idol on a small pillar. This idol is taken by some as of Mahabir, others take it as the Sun god. Higher up there is another very big idol having three faces and ten hands and is said to be the idol of Mahakal Bhairab.

A little higher but in close proximity to this idol there is a small idol of Ganesh. Further higher up but very near to this Ganesh *murti* there is an idol of Sarswati which is about two feet high. All these idols are on the right side of the person going up the hill. Near the idol of Mahakal Bhairab and just by the side of stairs there are some inscriptions in three lines.

On the way up hill there are two parallel very thick lines running round the hill. The lines are at a distance of about six feet from each other and look as if a motor car with grooved tyres has passed over the hill. The story goes that this hill was bound with a serpent and the sea was churned with it at the time of *Samudra Manthan*.

Higher up the path gets very steep and dangerous and people have to be very careful in moving along this path. This difficulty has been to some extent met by means of stairs cut in the stone. going up towards the east of these stairs there are some inscriptions which are not distinct. Above these inscriptions there is another idol with eight hands said to be the idol of Sarswati. A little above this idol, two paths appear both leading to a place called a cave temple of Narsingh Bhagwan. There is a tank called Sita Kund by which one of these paths passes. The other path passes by another called *Sankh Kund*. Near Sita Kund there are three tamarind trees

in the shade of which the pilgrims rest and prepare and take their meal. The cave temple is carved out of the hill and the roof is so low that people cannot stand up in it. This temple is situated on the brink of Sita Kund. Near this cave temple there is one small *Ashram* constructed of bricks and stones, but appears to be empty these days.

On the summit of the hill there are two small temples. One of them contains six marks of the human feet. People say that two of these marks, represent the feet of Vishnu, two of them of Saraswati and two of Laxmi.

On the peak of this hill there are two temples occupied by Jains, and are used by them as a place of pilgrimage where large numbers of Jains congregate.

The hill contains many relics of archaeological interest. At the foot of the hill there are a number of ruined temples said to be destroyed by Kala Pahar.

Legend about the tank called Papharini.—There was a king in Karnatak who came and took bath in this tank on *Makar Sankranti* day and was cured of the disease from which he was suffering. Some say that the disease was leprosy. The tank has thus gained a reputation for disease curing by bath in it on *Makar Sankranti* day. People collect here in large number to take bath on that day every year. The bath lasts from 4 in the morning till 12 noon. On that very day people collect to have a *Darshan* of Madhusudan Bhagwan and a *mela* is held. The deity who left this hill due to the destruction of its temple by Kala Pahar and went away to Baunsi is brought to this place on elephant from Bounsi and worshipped and then taken back to Bounsi. Besides *Makar Sankranti* people bathe in this tank on *Mekh Sankranti*, solar eclipse, lunar eclipse, *Bhado Purnima*, *Kartik Purnima* and *Maghi Purnima* days. People of the locality consider this tank as sacred as the Ganga. There is a decent dak bungalow belonging to the Forest Department near this tank.

There is one educational institution called Mandar Vidyapith just at the foot of the hill.

One peculiarity of this hill which is remarkable is that it is one single piece of massive said to be granite stone.

The scenery as it appears from the top of the hill is superb. The tanks surrounding it, the fields and the two rivers, the Chir and the Chandan look very beautiful.

Bhagalpur Town.—This town is situated on the bank of Ganga river and is the administrative headquarters of both Bhagalpur district and Bhagalpur Division. The total population of the town according to 1951 census was 1,14,530 whereas according to the provisional figure of 1961 census the population is 1,43,944.

Dr. Buchanan Hamilton's description of Bhagalpur town had been referred in W.W. Hunter's "A Statistical Account of Bengal" (Vol. XIV, published in 1877, p. 80) as follows:—*

"Bhagalpur, the chief town and administrative headquarters of the District, is situated on the right or south bank of the river Ganges, in 25°15′ north latitude, and 87°02′ east longitude. The records do not show when the town was declared the Headquarters Station, but it cannot have been later than the year 1771. At the beginning of the century the population was estimated at between 25,000 and 30,000 souls. In 1869, the experimental Census gave the following results:—

Number of houses 10,087; population, males 29,428, females 30,794, total 60,222; average number of souls per house 5.97. The regular census of 1872 showed a still further increase of the population. The results then ascertained were as follows:—

Hindus, males 26,065, females 24,608—total 50,673; Muhammadans, males 8,670, females 9,785—total 18,455; Buddhists, males 19; christians, males 201, females 141—total 342; "others", males 66, females 123—total 189. Total of all denominations, males 35,021, females 34,657—total 69,678. Bhagalpur has been constituted a municipality under Act III of 1864."

"Historically there is little of interest in the annals of Bhagalpur till the latter Musalman times. Colonel Franklin, indeed, has endeavoured to prove that this town is the site of the ancient Palibothra of geographers, a thesis principally supported by the allegation that the Chandan is a river presenting many of the characteristics of the Erinaboas, on the banks of which Ptolemy states that Palibothra stood. It is certain that Palibothra must have been situated somewhere in Behar and near the Ganges; but there seems to be insufficient reason to doubt the common identification with Patna city."

The town of Bhagalpur is occasionally mentioned when Akbar's troops marched through it, while invading Bengal in A.D. 1573 and 1575. In the second Afghan war, Man Singh made

*A *Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol. XIV, by W. W. Hunter, 1877 (PP. 80—84)

Bhagalpur the rendezvous of all the Behar contingents, which in A.D. 1591 were sent thence over Chutianagpur to Burdwan where they met the Bengal levies. The united army then invaded Orissa. In the *Ain-i-Akbari*, that is the third volume of the *Akbarnamah*, Bhagalpur is mentioned as the chief town of *mahal* or *pargana* Bhagalpur, which was assessed at 4,696,110 *dams* equal, at the rate of 40 *dams* to one Akbarshahi rupee, to 117,403 rupees. Subsequently, Bhagalpur was made the seat of an Imperial faujdar, or Military Governor. We learn from the *Padishahnamah* that in A.D. 1639 this office was held under Shahjahan by one Atish Khan Dakhini. About the beginning of Aurangzeb's reign there lived a certain Shaikh Razi-ud-din, regarding whom the *Maasir-i-Alamgiri* has the following note:—

> "Shaikh Raziuddin, who belongs to the gentry of Bhagalpur of Behar, a very learned man, and one of the compilers of the Fatawa-i-Alamgiri—the great Muhammadan code of law—received in 1669 a daily allowance of three rupees. He was distinguished for his eminent attainments in various sciences, was a good soldier, a good collector, and an excellent companion. Through the influence of several nobles at Court, he received a *mansab* of one hundred, and was in course of time, with the assistance of his patron, Hasan Ali Khan, raised to the rank of an Amir, and received the title of Khan".

Near Bhagalpur is Champanagar, where there is the mausoleum of a Muhammadan saint. The inscription states that it was built in 1622-23 by Khwaja Ahmad Samarkhandi, *Faujdar* of sarkar Mungir. Another place of interest as a Muhammandan shrine is the tomb of the *pir* Shah Janga Shahnabas, on a hill to the west of the Station, below which a very fine tank has been excavated.

The heretical sect of the Oswals have, in the western *mahallas* of the town, two remarkable places of worship, remnants, Dr. Buchanan Hamilton thinks, of the religion which prevailed during Government of the Karna Rajas. One, erected by the great banker Jagat Seth, is a square building two storeys high. Each storey consists of an apartment surrounded by a narrow open gallery, and the upper storey is covered by a dome. The stairs are in the thickness of the wall. In the lower apartment are small images of white marble, representing the twenty-four Thirthaankars of the Jain religion, sitting cross legged, and resembling the images worshipped by the Buddhists. The *pujaris* are the only people of the sect who reside at Champanagar. Many pilgrims, especially from Marwar in the west of India, are said to frequent these temples. The other place of worship belonging to the Jains is at Kabirpur, at no great distance from Champanagar. In the neighbourhood it is usually called Vishnu Paduka, or the feet of Vishnu; but this name is used only by the vulgar, and both Brahmans

and Jains agree that the object of worship here represents the feet of the twenty-four deities of the Jains. The emblem of the deity is very rudely carved, and represents the human feet.

The following account of the Karnagarh I have taken from Dr. Buchanan Hamilton. The hill, or rather plateau, formerly contained the lines of the Hill Rangers embodied about 1780 by Cleveland. It continued in their possession till 1863, when they were, disbanded and it is now held by a wing of a native regiment. "The ruin is exactly in the same style with that in Purniah which is said to have been the house of Kichak, contemporary with the Karna Raja, to whom this work is attributed; this is, it consists of a square rampart without works, but surrounded by a ditch. There is no cavity within the rampart, the ruins have been sufficient to fill up the whole space, which is still very high. The ropes are now cantoned on the ruins, which are finely adapted for the purpose, as they are dry level, and of abundant extent, both for quarters and for a parade. The people in the vicinity pretend that this Karna was the half-brother of Yudhishthira by the mother's side, and the style of the ruin is rather favourable to their opinion. This opinion is also adopted by Major Wilford in his account of the Kings of Magadha; where he mentions that this person, taking part with Jarasandha, the opponent of his brother, was rewarded with a small kingdom, called after his own name Karnadesh which long continued to be enjoyed by his descendants. In one place Major Wilford mentions this kingdom as coinciding with the present area of Bhagalpur District; but in others it is considered as the same with the Anga, or the western parts of Birbhum. Perhaps the kingdom of Karna may have included both territories. All the Brahmans of the District, however, that I have consulted concerning this Karna Raja, disallow the idea of his boing the contemporary of Yudhishthira and consider him as a prince who attempted to seize on the throne of Vikram. As, however, there have been many Vikrams and many Karnas, all usually confounded together by the Brahmans, I shall not pretend to determine the discordant opinions. I need only remark that the princes of Champa named Karna, were in all probability, of the Jain religion, as Vasupujya, the twelfth great teacher of that school, was born at their capital, and as the monuments of that religion are the only ones of note in the vicinity. It must, however, be allowed that on the ruin at Karnagarh there are two small temples, one of Siva and one of the Parwati—two gods of the Brahmans; each of which is provided with a *pujari* of the sacred tribe. These in the vicinity, although still tolerably entire, are attributed to Karna. Even allowing to this all due weight, the opinion of the heteroxy of Karna, which I have mentioned, need not be relinquished, as the Jains admit not only of the existence, but also of the worship of all the Hindu *devatas*.

"The landholders of the district have, erected a monument of brick to the memory of Mr. Cleveland. It is a lofty building place

in a conspicuous situation to the east of the Government offices, amongst the houses of the European residents. It consists of a Hindu pyramid surrounded by a heavy Grecian gallery, and lies in the centre of a plot of wooded land, which is now being fenced in with an ornamental iron railing. A monument of stone was sent by the court of Directors from England, and has been placed in front of the house which Cleveland occupied."

Bishop Heber visited Bhagalpur district. in 1824-25. His journal, Volume I has a lot of stray references to Bhagalpur town and to the district. He mentions that although Bhagalpur was well situated and was said to be one of the healthy stations in India, it was much infested with snakes. The District Judge and Magistrate was Mr. Chalmers, who had lent the Circuit House (a bungalow provided in each of the minor stations for the District Judges when on their circuits) to a missionary, Archdeacon Corrie. The Corries were investigating into the possibilities of an Evangolical Mission. Heber mentions that the first School at Boglipoor had been in activity for more than 18 months. He mentions that one Colonel Franklin was studying the idols of Brahminical and Buddhistic origin for writing a book. There are also stray references to Bhagalpur in the letters of Warren Hastings to his wife.

Captain Sherwill, the Revenue Surveyor, in his Geographical and Statistical Report of the district of Bhagalpur (1869) mentions:—*

> "The most remarkable objects in the pergunnah are, first the town and station of Bhagalpur. The town is a miserable straggling collection of huts, extending over four miles of ground cut up and divided by fields, gardens, plantations, and numerous roads, the whole plan resembling an uninhabited forest rather than a town. Chumpanaggur and Luchmeegunje two large contiguous towns, lie immediately to the west of the old Karrungurh fort, and form a portion of the town of Bhagulpoor; these towns are filled with weavers, traders and dyers, and have numerous markets. Nathnaggur, another large town lying a little to the south of the two former towns, is also full of gram-dealers, traders and markets and is highly populous. Kurrungurh, a high raised mound nearly two miles in circumference, is the site of the cantonment of the Baugulpoor Hill Ranges; it is a high dry spot, commanding a fine view of the river Ganges. Or appears to have been originally built upon a Kunkur bank though much raised by rains, rubbish, pottery and earth, a section lately cut in making a road up to the foot showed remains of pottery to the depth of ten or twelve feet; according to Buchanan, the fort appears to have been

*Extract from the book Geographical and Statistical Report of the District of Bhagalpur, (1869) p. 14.

built by the Kuna Rajas. At Chumpanaggur, which is at the extreme west of the town, are the remains of Jain temples."

It will appear that in 1869 Bhagalpur was not very important while Nathnagar and Champanagar had not only a large population but a sizeable trade and commerce. Apparently, the growing importance of Nathnagar and Champanagar led to the spread of the town towards the east and Bhagalpur as Sherwill describes as consisting of huts started developing. The location of the *fouzdari* and *Dewani Adalats* in Bhagalpur accelerated the growth of Bhagalpur as a town and in a few decades Bhagalpur became much more important than Nathnagar and Champanagar.

Byrne, the writer of old Gazetteer of Bhagalpur mentions "The chief town and administrative headquarters of the district and division of this name; situated on the right bank of the Ganges in 25°15′ N; and 87°0′ E. Bhagalpur railway station on the East Indian Railway, is distant from Calcutta 265 miles by rail and 326 by river. Bhagalpur figures more than once in Muhammadan chronicles of the 16th century. Akbar's troops marched through the town when invading Bengal in 1573 and 1575. In Akbar's second war against the Afghan king of Bengal, his general, Man Singh, made Bhagalpur the rendezvous of all the Bihar contingents which in 1592 were sent thence over Chòta Nagpur to Burdwan where they met the Bengal levies before the united army invaded Orissa. The town was subsequently made the seat of an imperial fouzdar or military governor. The town contains two monuments to the memory of Mr. Augustus Cleveland, sometime Collector of Bhagalpur district, one of brick, erected by the landholders of the district. the other of stone sent out by the Court of Directors of the East India Company from England. Within the town and its neighbourhood (at Champanagar) are some interesting Muhammadan shrines, and two remarkable places of worship, belonging to the Jain sect of Oswals, one of them erected by the great banker of the last century, Jagat Seth. The Karangarh plateau near the town formerly contained the lines of the Bhagalpur Hill Rangers organised by Cleveland in 1780.

"The population at the four censuses was 1872, 65,377; 1881, 68,238; 1891, 69,106; 1901, 75,760. The growth is due mainly to a great development in the export trade in agriculture produce, which has led to the opening of a second railway station and to great extension of the accommodation provided for goods. On the south, moreover, the municipal limits have been enlarged. Of the population in 1901, 70 per cent were Hindus and 20 per cent Musalmans, while there were 333 Christians and 118 Jains. The town contains the usual public buildings consisting of the criminal, revenue and civil courts, central jail, arts college, dispensary with 70 beds, Lady Dufferin hospitals and a new Victoria Memorial hospital,

a hideously ugly building. The jail has accommodation for 1,964 prisoners and the chief industries carried on are the manufacture of blankets and carpets, cane work, furniture making, carving oil pressing, grain grinding and rope making.

"Cerebro-spinal fever has been practically ending in the central jail since 1887. The disease appears to be commonest among prisoners employed on dusty forms of labour, in the garden and on road making.

"The Jubilee college, built by Babu Tej Narain Singh, a Zamindar of the town in 1887, was raised to a first grade arts college in 1890.

"Bhagalpur was constituted a municipality in 1864, and the board now consists of 22 commissioners, of whom 14 are elected. The area within municipal limits is 9 sq. miles. The town is a very healthy one with a natural system of drainage and a filtered water-supply, which was extended in 1896-97 to the suburbs of Nathnagar and Champanagar, a loan of 3 lakhs being taken from Government for the purpose."*

Since Byrne wrote Bhagalpur has had a lot of changes. The town has also been described in the text on Local Self-Government which may be seen. The great earthquake of 1934 affected the town but not as ruthlessly as some of the other towns of Bihar. One good result of the earthquake was a new look to the Government buildings that had to be reconstructed or had to be built anew. Being the headquarters of the administrative division of the district, a large number of Government Offices are located here. They include the offices of the Divisional Commissioner, District Magistrate, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer, Regional Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Income-tax Assistant Commissioner, Income-tax Officer, Commercial Taxes Superintendent, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Employment Exchange, etc. There are six first grade colleges, namely, T.N.B. College, formerly known as T. N. Jubilee College, Marwari College, Sundrawati Mahila College, Ayurvedic College, Teachers Training College, and Sabour Agricultural College. The old school of Engineering is functioning and an Engineering College has been started in the premises of the old school of Engineering at Barari. A Law College has also been started. Besides, Sanskrit College and Leela Deep Narain Technical School have been started at Nathnagar and Barari respectively. Recently Bhagalpur University has been established. There is a Blind School at Bhikhanpur where handicrafts (manual) are taught such as wastepaper basket, baskets and paper baskets. There are also a large number

*Extract from old District Gazetteer, Bhagalpur written by J. Byrne (p. 162 to 164).

of high and other standard schools for both boys and girls. There is a municipality looking after the sanitation and water supply of the town. The Electric Supply Company has had expansion owing to the development of the town. The town has become much more congested in the last few decades but there are still houses with a few *kathas* of land as their compound. There is a big grain market at Mirjanhat where thousands of maunds of grains are transacted everyday. There is a big cloth market at Sujaganj where cloth worth about rupees ten crores are transacted every year. The town also contains a *Goshala* where about one thousand animals are kept and there is a big milk production. About 10 maunds of milk are supplied to the people daily in the town. The different localities like Naya Bazar, Adampur, Khanjarpur, Sujaganj market and Bhikhanpur have had the addition of a very large number of good buildings.

While a large number of Government and residential buildings of modern type have been built, there are still hundreds of thatched houses in Bhagalpur town especially in the slum areas. As a matter of fact mention may be made of the slum areas at Mundichak, Ishakchak, Tatarpur and south part of Nathnagar.

The town is now well connected by rail, road, water and airways. It is served by three railway stations, namely, Bhagalpur, Nathnagar and Sabour. Recently, a large number of State Transport and private passenger buses have been running through Bhagalpur connecting the town with places like Sultanganj, Akbarnagar, Shahkund, Tarapur, Amarpur, Shambhuganj, Asarganj, Banka, Katoria, Jagdishpur, Sonoula, Colgong, Ghogha and Pirpainty. It has also a good road connecting Monghyr and Dumka the two other district headquarters. There is an aerodrome for small planes. The main roads in the town are now metalled and tarmacadamised. The conveyance vehicles are passenger buses and *rickshaws*. The familiar *Tamtams* are also available in the town. There are now quite a number of private cars but there are no taxis available.

Regarding accommodation it may be mentioned that the town has a Circuit House, Dak Bungalow, Station Club and *Dharmshalas*. There are also a number of cheap roadside eating houses and tea shops which offer temporary accommodation. It is understood daily at least 1,000 full meals are served at these roadside restaurants. There are a few hotels of average standard. There is no youth hostel.

The State Hospital has been expanded. There is a Nurses' Training School by the side of the Sandy's compound. A State library, namely, *Bhagwan Pustkalaya* and an institute known as Kala Kendra are coming up now for developing study, music and and other arts. There are four Cinema houses and daily markets

in various parts of the town. The Post office along with the Telegraph and Telephone offices have had great expansion recently.

As regards industries mention may be made of one small aluminium factory, two big flour mills, two big oil mills, two rice and three *dal* mills, two iron foundries, several soap factories, several cloth printing factories, one dyeing and washing factory, three ice factories, one big and two small hosieries, hundreds of power looms and thousands of handlooms.

Bhagalpur is renowned for mangoes such as *Zardalu*, *Langra* and *Gulabkhas*. It is also famous for green vegetables and fish.

There is a big Central Jail where blankets and carpets are prepared. Bhagalpur is famous for silk and it has one silk institute at Nathnagar where silk is produced and sent outside the country also.

From recreational and cultural point of view it may be mentioned that the town has one public garden, viz., Lajpat Park and two private gardens, namely, Sundarban and Himmat Singh Garden besides libraries, cultural associations etc.

For historical importance it may be mentioned that the town has an ancient Burhanath temple on the bank of the river Ganga in Jogsar Mahalla, Jain Mandir at Champanagar, Mayaganj *Gufa*, Karnagarh at Nathnagar, Mulnachak Mosque, Murtuza Sahib's Dargah and Kumari Bibi's tomb etc. There is a *Jhauch Kothi* near Dak Bungalow where the Lieutenant Governor came and stayed when Bihar, Bengal and Orissa were in one State.

The wide stretch of open land known as Sandy's compound is a landmark in Bhagalpur city. There are only 3 pucca structures on the compound till now. One of the structures is the Circuit House, the second one is a mausoleum in front of the Circuit House raised to commemorate Cleveland referred to elsewhere and the third house is now occupied by the Bhagalpur Club. Recently a part of Sandy's compound has been taken over for constructing some of the court buildings. A portion of the compound has been temporarily fenced where football matches are held. A portion of the open land is also used for physical training of the police constables. There are also a number of football grounds in this compound. The area is largely used for constitutional walk by the local gentry.

The Sandy's compound comprises of three *mouzas*, Khanjarpur, Kalabari and Adampur. The total area of the compound is 101.75 acres. From the old records it appears that one Mr. Formula was the owner of the land of Sandy's compound in 1803. He conveyed the entire land to one Mr. Wentee from whom in 1805 the land

came to Mr. Armstrong. Shri Lakshmi Narain Banerjee of Kalighat of Calcutta purchased the entire compound on 16th March 1899 from Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong. Mr. Sandys who was once the Judge of Bhagalpur was allowed to live in the house built in the compound free of rent and as Sandys continued to live for a long time the compound came to be known as Sandys' *Kothi* or Sandys' compound.

In 1906 the entire land of this compound was acquired under Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and under declaration no. 2090, dated the 16th July 1906 published at page 139, part I of the *Calcutta Gazette* of 18th July 1906 and possession was taken. A sum of Rs. 59,517-9-11 was paid by cheque no. 60/5901, dated the 31st January 1907 to the proprietor and tenants of *mouza* Kelabaree for an area of 48.59 acres of land, and Rs. 22,782-15-8 by cheque no. 60/5902, dated the 30th January 1907 to the proprietors and tenants of *mouza* Khanjarpur for an area of 34.91 acres of land. These prices incidentally indicate the price of the best building sites in Bhagalpur at that time.

After taking possession of the compound the Collector made it over to P.W.D., Bhagalpur on the 20th February 1907. The Executive Engineer, Bhagalpur re-transferred the land of Sandys' compound to the charge of the Collector, Bhagalpur as *khas mahal* vide his letter no. 11074, dated the 27th October 1923.

The following chart will show the variation of population in Bhagalpur town from 1901 to 1961 :—

Town.	Year.	Persons.	Variation.	Percentage of variation.	Net variation (1901—61).
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bhagalpur ..	1901 ..	75,760	..	..	..
	1911 ..	74,349	—1,411	1.86	..
	1921 ..	68,878	—5,471	7.36	..
	1931 ..	83,847	+14,969	21.76	..
	1941 ..	43,259	+9,407	11.22	..
	1951 ..	1,14,530	+21,276	22.83	..
	1961 ..	1,43,994	+29,464	25.73	68,234

Bhat Kundi—Location and boundaries.—It is a village in the south of Bhagalpur district, at a distance of 28 miles. It is 6 miles north of Banka, the subdivisional headquarters of the village and four miles west from Bhagalpur-Dumka Road. The nearest railway station of Eastern Railway on Bhagalpur-Mandar Hill branch is Punsia, five miles east from the village.

The village is bounded on the north by a small hill named Ajit Nagar Hill at a distance of one mile, under the jurisdiction of Rajaun Police Station. To the south of this village is Galatu village at a distance of 3 miles, on the east river Katoria and on the west river Chandan. This river is very dangerous at the time of flood.

Origin of the name.—The name of this village Bhat Kundi indicates that it is the store of rice. It has very fertile land for paddy crops.

Topography.—The village is surrounded by hills on two sides, i.e., North and West. The land is plain. The soil is *kewal* and very productive. The village is greatly affected during the rainy season.

The flood of river Chandan affects the villagers. During rainy season it becomes difficult to cross river Katoria which flows at a distance of 2 miles east from the village.

The population of this village according to 1961 census is 1,964 (959 males and 1,005 females) having 378 households. The total number of literate persons are 481, i.e., 341 males and 140 females. The incidence of literacy is not low in comparison with other villages of Banka subdivision. The houses are mostly mud built with straw roofing. There are also brick built houses, but their number is only 10. The brick built houses belong to big cultivators or Government servants who are mostly Maithil Brahmans. The mud built houses with tile roofing belong to small cultivators and thatched houses belong to landless and poorer section.

The village has a Post Office, a Senior Basic School with about 100 students and 7 teachers, one Primary School with 150 students and 8 teachers and one Lower Girls' School with 40 students and two teachers. There is one public library containing about 1,200 books. It is not running in a good condition because villagers are not very library-minded. The average number of books issued daily is 4.

Languages, etc.—The language spoken by the people of this village is Maithili.

Social life.—The inter-caste relations are very good and there is very little bokering on account of caste and creed distinction except at the time of election. The Hindus are guided in matters of inheritance by the Hindu custom. The people are generally monogamous. The Hindus are not in favour of giving equal share to daughter.

Occupation of the people.—The main occupation of the people of the village is cultivation. There are about 100 persons holding services outside this village. Cultivators produce mainly paddy, wheat, barley, *Jawar*, *bajra* and gram. The income of the village from service holders is about two thousand per month. There are about 7 houses of *kumhars* (potters) who make utensils etc. of clay and meet the requirements of the village. The landless labourers do manual labour in fields and in schemes sponsored by Government, such as construction of roads, bunds, etc.

Trade.—Only a few persons are engaged in trade and that is in miscellaneous goods. There are only two *Kirana* shops in the village. The villagers sell their agricultural produce at Barahat, the big market of grain in the district of Bhagalpur. Barahat is about seven miles from this village.

Transport.—Though the Chandan river is near the village but there is no boat traffic. The river is dangerous during the rainy season due to swift current. There is no suitable communication for the villagers. Only bullock-carts are used for transport.

Education.—Nearly 30 per cent of the population of the village is literate. There are 20 matriculates, 129 I.As., 11 B.As. and 22 trained graduates in the village.

Food habits.—Rice, bread, *chura*, curd and fried rice are the staple food articles of the people. Rice is generally taken along with pulses and vegetables. The vegetables are generally grown in the village.

Cultural activities.—A '*Kirtan Mandal*' is in the village where religious songs are sung. There is a Community Hall where villagers gather in every evening and discuss village problems and country problems. Besides these associations there are other meeting places at which the people of this and other places get a chance of meeting each other.

Gram Panchayat.—There is a statutory Gram Panchayat in the village. But the *Mukhiya* is of another village. They take their cases firstly to *Mukhiya* and then to Court if the case is not settled.

The village is under Banka *Anchal*.

Bhitia.—There is a big lake here and good for angling and bird shooting. It is situated on the Banka-Bolhar Road about twelve miles west of Banka town. The place has a Dak Bungalow which commands a good scenery. A picnic spot.

Bihpur.—A village in Sadar subdivision situated at a distance of one mile south of the railway station, Thana Bihpur Junction of North Eastern Railway. It is bounded on the north by North-Eastern Railway line, on the south by village Bikrampur, on the east by Babhangama village and on the west is P.W. Road no. 14.

The village is the headquarters of Bihpur Anchal and Police Thana (no. 59). The area of the village is 2,314 acres. The population of this village according to 1951 census was 4,796 (2,497 males and 2,299 females). The total number of literate persons was 752, i.e., 613 males and 139 females.

The village has a mixed population, consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders, but the agriculturists predominate The main castes are Mohammadan, Kayasthas, Brahman and Harijan.

The village has a Post Office, a Dak Bungalow, a Sub-Registry Office, a Multi-purpose Co-operative Society, a State Dispensary with six indoor beds and a Veterinary hospital.

The main crops are maize, *arhar*, *jawar* and *Bajra*. The yield of maize is about 7 to 9 maunds per *bigha*. Bihpur pottery is popular although there are only about 7 families of potters. They make *Surahis*, *Ghailas*, pots, etc., and send them to various places within the district and outside. Fried rice (*Chura*) and curd form the main diet besides rice and wheat. This is a growing village with a number of grain, sweetmeat, betel, tea and tailoring shops. Hair cutting saloons are coming in. There is also a flour mill.

There is a proposal of Government to pass Barauni-Assam oil pipe line through the northern side of the village. The village is liable to be inundated by floods of Ganga and Kosi rivers and the village is protected by some *bundhs*.

The village has a High School with about 200 students and 9 teachers. There is a Senior Basic School with about 250 students on its roll. One Primary School, one *Maktab* and a Sanskrit Pathshala were established in 1940 by a *Mahanth* of the village. In this *Madhusudan Sanskrit Pathshala* there are about 25 students at present (1961) and two teachers. The High School of the village is also built by the help of the *Mahanth* of the village. A library named as *Veena Pustakalaya* was established in 1960 which is in the office of *Kausal Kala Mandir*. There are about 200 books and some news papers in the library.

The villagers send their agricultural produce to Naugachia and Bhagalpur. At present (1961) there is no *gola* in the village and the villagers want to sell direct. Agricultural produce mostly maize is sent to Chapra, Muzaffarpur, Katihar and other places. The National Highway road is under construction which passes through the northern side of the village. The village *hat* is held on Thursdays and Sundays in the week. Well boring schemes have been taken up to provide irrigation facilities.

A *Kali Puja Mela* takes place in October. About 2,000 people come from all over the district and outside the district to see the *mela*. A *Mangan rah dargah mela* which takes place and continues for four days is very famous. This *mela* is attended by a large number of Muslims from different parts of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

There is a statutory Gram Panchayat in the village. Villagers take their cases firstly to Mukhiya and then to court if the case is not settled. There is a Community Hall where villagers gather every evening.

Colgong Town.—Colgong is a small town on the bank of the river Ganga 19 miles east of Bhagalpur town. It is the headquarters of Colgong Development Block. The total population according to 1951 census was 7,515 whereas according to the provisional figure of 1961 census the population is 9,879.

Dr. Buchanan Hamilton's description of Colgong town had been referred to in W.W. Hunter's "A Statistical Account of Bengal (Vol. XIV, published in 1877, p. 85)" and is as follows :—

> "Colgong (Kahalgaon) situated within the *Pargana* of the same name in 25°15′ 55″N. latitude, and 87° 16′ 51″ E. longitude, is the second largest town in the district. It was one of the places enumerated at the time of the experimental census of 1869, with the following results. Number of houses 956, population males 2,386, females 2,463, total 4,849; average number of inmates per house 5.07. In 1872. the regular census showed that the population has increased, the number being returned as follows :—Hindus males 2,167, females 2,000; total 4,167. Muhammadans—males 515, females 549, total 1,064. Christians—males 5, females 3, total 8. Total of all denominations, males 2,687, females 2,552, grand total 5,239. Colgong has for many years past been a town of great commercial importance, owing to its being easily accessible both by railway and river. But during the past twelve months (1875) a large number of traders, chiefly Bengalis, have left it, in consequence of a great diversion of the main stream of the Ganga, which formerly flowed just under the town, but has now entirely receded.

The former channel of the river is at present occupied by a broad bank of loose sand, across which it is very difficult to bring heavy merchandise.

"The only fact of historical interest connected with Colgong is that Mahmud Shah, the last independent king of Bengal, died there in 1539 A.D. After his defeat at Behar, he had fled to Gaur, and when that place was invested by Sher Shah, he took refuge with the Emperor Humayun at Chunar. In his absence his capital was stormed and sacked, and his two sons murdered by the Afghans. He had advanced with the Emperor as far as Colgong to attack Sher Shah, who was posted in force at the lines of Teraijorh and Sikligali, when he heard these fatal tidings, by which he was so much affected that he died after a few days' illness.

"Colgong has been created into a township under Act VI of 1868. The Municipal Committee, by whom its affairs are managed, consists of ten members of whom nine are non-officials, eight being natives."*

Byrne, the writer of old Gazetteer, Bhagalpur mentions :—

"A town situated on the south bank of the Ganges in 25°16′ N., 87°14′ E. Population (1901) 5,738. Colgong is a station on the East Indian Railway 245 miles from Calcutta and of some commercial importance. Mahmud Shah, the last independent king of Bengal, died here in 1539 after the sack of Gaur. There is a rock temple of peculiar style which formerly contained several fine specimens of sculpture, and the place appears to have been visited by the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsiang. In later times it was notorious as the resort of *thugs*. Colgong was constituted a municipality in 1869, and the municipal board consists of 11 commissioners nominated by Government. The area within municipal limits is 0.6 square mile".**

Since Byrne wrote Colgong has had many changes. Regarding the origin of the name "Colgong" there are different stories. One story is that Colgong derives its name after the sage *Durbasa* who was famous for bad temperament, i.e., *kalaha*. That is why it was famous for the name of Kahalgaon. Colgong was famous for the *Ashram* of sage *Durbasa* which is still in existence in Kashri hill about four miles north-east of Colgong town. Some say it was the abode of a Kohol Muni and so it was called Koholgaon which was changed to Colgong. Another story is that the Britishers named it Colgong because the place was the abode of the Kols.

**A Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol. XIV, by W. W. Hunter, 1877, p. 85.

**Extract from *Old District Gazetteer, Bhagalpur*, by J. Byrne (p. 164).

Colgong is bounded by Gangaldei and Kashiri hills towards the north, Kowa rivulet on the south and Sah Kumari hill and *Uttarbahini* Ganga towards the east and west respectively. The loop line of the Eastern Railway passes through it. The total area of the town is 3/4th square mile.

The town has been originally sited on high land and has now extended. It is a place of commercial and trade importance. The commodities like maize, Jaggery, oil-cake, oilseeds, linseed, castor seed and also fish are exported to Dumka, Darbhanga, Siliguri, Calcutta and places in Uttar Pradesh, etc. The town contains about 20 grain stockists (Arhatias), 30 wholesale, 60 retail sale dealers and about 40 shops to sell the articles. The area grows a good quantity of sugarcane the juice of which is converted into jaggery. It is a big market for jaggery (*gur*). Jaggery is sent to various parts of India from Colgong.

The town is inhabited by Hindu and Muhammadan communities. There are twenty castes in the town and the Marwari and Mallah communities hold the largest majority in the town. The number of Rajputs, Bhumihars, Kurmis and Kayasthas is not so large.

The general economic condition of the people is fairly satisfactory. People of the town broadly belong to three categories. They are poor and landless, farmers and farmer-*cum*-merchants. The condition of the landless labourers and the poor fishermen is rather wretched. They take loans from big Marwaris at exorbitant rate of interest. They are unemployed for two to three months every year.

The economic condition of ex-zamindars, big farmers and farmers-*cum*-merchants is to some extent better. The Marwaris are financially sound. They have all the amenities of life, lands, cattle, big pucca houses and cash money. They carry on a brisk trade in wheat, maize, linseed and jaggery and make much money out of it.

The incidence of education and literacy is rather poor. The people of Colgong do not appear to pay much attention to education. The town has four lower-*cum*-upper primary schools, one middle and one high school only. The town has a large number of businessmen. But they are not so enthusiastic to give adequate education to their children. It is understood that not more than 6 per cent of the people are educated.

About 40 per cent of the total population are engaged in trade and commerce. The chief commercial classes are Agarwals, Choudhurys, Marwaris and Banias. Marwaris have big mills. Banias are usually petty traders in cloth and grains. The principal export are grains and pulses, oil and other articles. There is one oil mill, named Gauri Oil Mill. The town is not electrified. These traders

have played an important role in enhancing the importance of trade and commerce.

The civic affairs of the town are managed by a municipality established in 1869. The municipality is divided into 8 wards and is composed of 10 Commissioners out of which 8 are elected and 2 nominated. The number of tax-payers in 1959-60 was 1,351 representing 13.6 per cent of the population residing in the municipal area.

The roads maintained by the Board extend over 12 miles and are maintained at an average annual cost of Rs. 3,253. Most of these roads are metalled and black topped roads. The roads have been provided with 91 kerosene oil lamps. The condition of most of the roads is not so good.

As regards water-supply of the town it may be mentioned that the Board maintains three tube-wells and three hydrants and the water work is now supplying 30,000 gallons per day. The supply is not adequate.

Regarding accommodation for the visitors it may be mentioned that there is one Inspection Bungalow of the District Board and two *Dharmshalas*. There are also a number of cheap road side eating houses and tea shops. There is no tourists' bungalow.

From medical and public health point of view the town is backward. The town has a State Dispensary and a branch of anti-malaria centre. The town has four Allopathic, seven Homeopathic and four Ayurvedic practitioners, which is quite insufficient for a population of 9,897. There is no sewerage system within the town and there is a general lack of sense of sanitation. The Government maintains a veterinary dispensary in the town. There is a public library named Sharda *Pustakalaya*, to which the municipality gives an annual grant of Rs. 50. There is no fire service maintained by the municipality. A *hat* is held in the town twice in a week, i.e., on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

There is a burial ground for the Muslims maintained by the municipality. There is one cremation ground for Hindus.

The townsmen are political minded. The poor and *Harijan* community are exploited politically by the well-to-do people. There appears to be a class of people who hang round the local officers with selfish motive.

Colgong is probably one of the oldest religious and trade centres in Bhagalpur district. It commands a picturesque scenery and has a good climate. There are three hills on an islet in the river at Colgong. In one hill there is one *Ashram* known as

Tapas Ashram. About seven students get their education including fooding and lodging. There is one hill where there is a Sadhu living known as Santi Das. A case has been launched against the *Sikh Sadhu* of third hill. The dispute is between the Muhammadans and the Hindus. The Muhammadans claim that the rock temple is not a temple but a tomb whereas the Hindus claim it to be a Budha temple. Parties have been restrained by Court order from going over the hill now.

The only rock hewn temple in Bihar is to be found on this islet. It is considered a specially holy place by the Hindus, because the river takes a sudden bend to the north here. There is a remarkably large house on a hillock to the east of the town. This house belonged to the Indigo Planters who had a good Indigo trade in the past. The house now belongs to a Bengali family who held extensive zamindary once in Colgong.

Colgong used to attract visitors before. Mrs. Warren Hastings cruised to Bhagalpur from Calcutta and her boat almost capsized at Colgong near the three hills in the river. Colgong on Ganga had a more important role as a trade-centre before the Railways came in.

Tourism could still be developed in Colgong because of its scenery, climate and good health. The area is somewhat like stretches of Santhal Parganas.

Dumraon.—Dumraon lies a mile north of the village of Amarpur. It is within Amarpur block. It has an area of 952 acres with 463 houses according to 1951 Census. The total population is 2,584 out of whom 387 males and 210 females are literates. The village has a lower primary school, upper primary school, a high school, a library and a hospital. It has also a veterinary centre.

Regarding the history of the village Byrne in the old Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) mentioned that it was about a mile or more in circumference, and consisted entirely of a wall of mud surrounded by a deep ditch. The only approach to the fort was by seven large gates which was tolerably high, but in most places it was scarcely more than two or three feet above the ground, while at some points it had entirely disappeared. It was within this fort that the last Kshetauri Raja fell fighting for independence against the Muhammadan invaders. Tradition relates that, being besieged and finding himself unequal to the contest, he resolved to abandon his capital and fled at night with the little band of his remaining followers. There is hardly any trace of the fort, however, left now and the legend associated with the fort is being completely forgotten and very few persons of the place are aware of it.

Gangania.—The village is situated in Sultanganj P.-S. in the Sadar subdivision of Bhagalpur district. The village is one mile

from Gangania railway station of Eastern Railway. It is about 23 miles from Bhagalpur on the Bhagalpur-Sultanganj-Monghyr Road. It has an area of 3,080 acres. It is bounded on the north by the river Ganga, on the south by the railway line and village Manjhili, on the east by villages Jahanjira and Mosehri and on the west by village Ghorghat.

The village is divided into two parts, eastern and western, by the river Belharni. The eastern part is also called Fatehpur. There was a bridge on the river which connected the two parts but it has been damaged and a new one is being constructed (1961).

During the rainy season the Ganga brings in flood in the area. But as the village is inhabited only by the side of the road, communication is not difficult though flood water enters most of th houses.

Nothing definite is known about the origin of the name of the village but some people say that as previously the main current of Ganga flowed through the site, the place came to be called Gangania.

A comparative statement of the population of this village as enumerated in the censuses of 1951 and 1961 is given below :—

	1951	1961
Number of occupied houses	535	524
Male population	1,134	1,766
Female population ..	1,204	1,734
Total ..	2,338	3,500
Male literates ..	220	495
Female literates	21	84
Total ..	241	579

The comparison makes a curious reading. There has been a decrease of 11 in the number of occupied houses while the population has increased by 1,162 that is 49.3 per cent. This is rather intriguing. The increase in the number of males being 632 and in females 530. Literacy has shot up by 275 that is by 125 per cent above the figures of literacy in 1951 amongst males and 300 per cent amongst the females. There has been comparatively a marvellous increase in literacy specially amongst females during these 10 years. It is doubtful if the figures are correct.

The village has a mixed population of caste Hindus, Harijans and Muslims. The Dhanuks preponderate followed by Harijans.

The number of caste Hindus is comparatively very small while there are only 9 Muslim families.

Though Brahmans form a small minority in the village they are the most influential and rich people and are the most educated amongst the population. They have *pucca* houses also. Next in importance come the Bhumihars whose number is smaller even than that of Brahmans. In spite of these facts the *Mukhiya* of the village is a Dhanuk and the Sarpanch a Bhumihar.

Only 25 per cent of the population cultivate their own lands. The remaining 75 per cent are landless and carry on cultivation on *batai* system or serve as labourers in Jamalpur railway workshop. Only the Brahman and Bhumiar families have some of their members in service mostly under the Government.

The soil of the village is alluvial and productive. The main crops are gram and maize.

The educational facilities in the village are provided by one co-educational Upper Primary school and one Lower Primary school specially meant for *Harijans*. There are two libraries, one Gandhi *Pustakalaya* and the other Shri Krishna *Pustakalaya*.

There is an extra departmental post office in the village. The village has been provided with electric light on the roads and provision has been made for the supply of electricity for domestic purposes also but connection with the power house for domestic or industrial purposes has not yet been given. There is no medical facility in the village and the nearest place with medical aid is Sultanganj at a distance of about 6 miles.

There are four *Thakurbaris* and four *Shivalas* (for worship of Shiva) in the village. There are about 15 shops for miscellaneous goods, one cloth shop and four tea and betel shops. Three *melas* are held in the village (*i*) one on the occasion of *Dasehra* in the month of *Asin*, (*ii*) one on the occasion of *Kali Puja* in the month of *Kartik* and (*iii*) one on the occasion of *Saraswati Puja* in the month of *Magh*.

The village has a *Gram Panchayat* having 18 members including the *Mukhiya*. The *Panchayat* is held in its own *pucca* building.

There is one artificial insemination centre.

Jagdishpur.—Jagdishpur is situated about 9 miles south from Bhagalpur railway station on the Bhagalpur-Dumka metalled Road. The physical configuration of the village is plain and the soil is fertile. It has about 500 occupied houses with a population of about 3,000 in 1961. According to 1951 census, it contained 466 dwelling houses with a population of 2,060 (1,049 males and 1,011 females). The incidence of literacy was very poor as the total number of literates was only 234 males and 11 females or about 10.7 per cent of the total population. The area of the village was 883 acres.

The village has a mixed population, consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders. But the agriculturists have predominance in population in the village. The main castes are Goala, Surhi, Bania, Dosadh, Jolaha, Chamar, Tanti, Brahman and Kayastha.

Before the abolition of zamindari it belonged to the Zamindar of the Mahashaya family of Bhagalpur. After the abolition of Zamindari it came under the direct control of the State. It has a gram panchayat office, a post office, a provincialised dispensary, a library, a primary, a middle and a high school. Co-education is prevalent in all the above mentioned schools and the number of girls on the rolls of the schools has recently increased. From local enquiry it appears that the incidence of literacy has stepped up from about 10 per cent in 1951 to about 20 per cent in 1961.

So far as the economic condition of the village is concerned it may be mentioned that the acreage of culturable land in the village in proportion to the population is inadequate.

The majority of the cultivators has very small holdings which will be evident from the following table :—

(This table is based on 40 persons interrogated.)

1 to 5 bighas.	6 to 10 bighas.	11 to 15 bighas.	16 to 20 bighas.	21 to 30 bighas.	31 to 40 bighas.
8	6	1	1	2	1

From the above table it is apparent that more than 50 per cent of the villagers have very little cultivable land. Among landless inhabitants, the number of the landless labourers is predominant. So far as the holding is concerned it is apparent from the above table that the number of small holdings is greater than the big holdings. The small holding is not economical and that is why a good number of small cultivators had spoken in favour of the consolidation of holdings. The economic condition of the small cultivators is not satisfactory as they could not meet the bare expenses of their life from their lands. Their economic status is somewhat similar to the landless labourers but in one respect the fortune of the landless labourers is better due to two-weekly *hats* held in the village. In these two *hats* the labourers earn sufficient to meet the bare necessities of life.

Paddy is the principal crop of the village. Both *Bhadai* and *Aghani* paddy crops are grown. But the acreage of the *Aghani* crop is larger than the *Bhadai* crop. Maize is the next crop in importance.

The acreage under this crop seems to be also large. In *Rabi* crops *khesari* has predominance. It is sown broadcast in the paddy field in the month of September and October. But the yield is reported to be very poor being 2 to 3 maunds per *bigha*. The yield of paddy is reported to be on average 7 to 9 maunds per *bigha*. The yield of maize is also similar to paddy. In the absence of irrigation the acreage under the double crops is practically negligible. (Wheat, barley, and other *rabi* crops have very small acreage.)

It is reported that the acreage of double crops can be considerably increased provided there had been irrigation facility. The chief sources of irrigation are two bundhs, namely, Morari and Gatari which are now in dilapidated condition for want of repair. Before the abolition of zamindari these bundhs were regularly repaired by the zamindar with the assistance of the villagers. In the case of minor breach or in case of major breach, the expenses were entirely borne by the zamindar. But since the abolition of zamindari these two bundhs have never been repaired and the breaches are annually widening due to annual inundation. It is reported that several complaints were lodged to the Irrigation Department and to the Collector.

There is a *kirtan mandali* in the village where villagers assemble and recite *Bhajans* and *Kirtans* once in a week.

There was no contest in the last election of *Mukhiya* or the Gram Panchayat. But this does not show there is no faction. He tendered his resignation from the *Mukhiyaship* due to non-co-operating attitude of the villagers.

Surhis have influence over the Panchayat due to their majority and better economic condition. It is reported that the election had been uncontested mainly due to predominance of Surhis in the village.

Jesthournath hill.—It is a hill on the western bank of the Chandan river about seven miles north-west of Banka. There is a temple of Lord *Shiva* at the foot of the hill and is said to be about two hundred years old. Every year on the day of *Shivratri* a fair is held there.

Karnagarh.—Karnagarh is a plateau at a distance of about three miles from Bhagalpur junction railway station and about half a mile from Nathnagar railway station. It is easily approachable by Bhagalpur-Sultanganj Road. Karnagarh is within the Bhagalpur municipality and is under the jurisdiction of Nathnagar police-station.

It is bounded on the north by village Narga, on the south by Nathnagar market, on the east by mohalla Nasratkheni and on the west by mohalla Champanagar.

J. Byrne in the 1911 edition of Bhagalpur District Gazetteer mentions that Karnagarh derived its name from Karna a pious Hindu king of olden times and the plateau which is locally known as the *kila* or fort is believed to be the site of one of the historical and famous pre-Buddhist forts. He further writes, "Several bastions and the ditch in the west can still be made out. In modern times it formerly contained the lines of the Hill Rangers, body of troops raised from among the hill people by Mr. Augustus Cleveland, Collector of the district, in 1780, for the pacification of the lawless jungle tribes. The corps was disbanded in 1863 on the reorganisation of the native army. For some time afterwards it was held by a wing of a native regiment, but Bhagalpur has long since ceased to be a cantonment.

"The only objects of interest are Sivaite temples of some celebrity. These consist of four buildings (*maths*), with square bases and the usual pointed pinnacles. One is several hundred years old, the others being modern buildings. Numbers of Hindus, though not usually worshippers of Siva, pay their devotions here on the last day of the month of Kartik. The temples contain several of the so-called seats of Mahadev or Siva, one much prized being made of stone from the Narbudda said to have come from the marble rocks near Jubbulpur."

The bastions mentioned in the above extract have now almost disappeared but the ditch still continues. During the rains the ditch gets filled with water which flows into the river Ganga. During the rains some people collect and screen the sand for recovering gold.

On the plateau of Karnagarh stand (*i*) Constable Training School, (*ii*) Shri Jitendra Narain Ashtang Ayurvedic College with its attached hospital, (*iii*) Vidyasagar *Smarak* Sanskrit *Vidyalaya*, (*iv*) *Uch Prathmic Vidyalaya*, (*v*) Mithilesh L. P. School, (*vi*) Nathnagar Police-station, (*vii*) A Catholic Church, (*viii*) Five temples of *Shiva* attached to each other with 22 idols and (*ix*) Municipal water tank for supplying drinking water.

The plateau is mainly occupied by the Constable Training School and its attached parade and play ground, barracks, office and quarters. Only a small portion of the plateau is occupied by the other institutions mentioned above.

The Constable Training School provides training for Police Havildars and Constables, Excise Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Constables and Havildars and Constables of Jail Department.

Shri Jitendra Narain Ashtang Ayurvedic College imparts instruction in the Ayurvedic system of medicine. It has a hospital attached to it.

Vidyasagar Smarak Sanskrit Vidyalaya and Uch Prathmic Vidyalaya, Nathnagar are situated in the same two storeyed building on the plateau, the upper storey being occupied by the Vidyasagar Smarak Sanskrit Vidyalaya and the ground floor by Uch Prathmic Vidyalaya, Nathnagar. The building belongs to

Sanatan Dharma Rakshani Sabha. The *Sabha* charges a rent of Rs. 35 a month from the municipality for the Uch Prathmic Vidyalaya, but it charges no rent from the Sanskrit *Vidyalaya*.

The Mithilesh L. P. School, a municipal school is located in a barrack of the Police Training School.

The Nathnagar Police-Station has been temporarily located in one of these barracks but a separate building for it is being constructed in Nathnagar proper.

The site of Karnagarh occasionally yields old relics, like statues, stone-railings, etc. It is said that quite a large number of statues have been removed by curio hunters.

Kharik.—Kharik is 3 miles south from Kharik railway station of N. E. Railway. The village is divided in *tolas*, namely, Kharik Bazar, Raingarh, Ketta, Shivaghar and Usmanpur. On the east of the village is Gote Kharik village, on the west is Telghi, on the north N. E. Railway line and on the south is Khairpur.

So far as the origin of the name of the village is concerned it is said that formerly this area was *diara* and it yielded straw in plenty and hence it was called Kharik.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Naugachhia *Anchal* and Naugachhia police-station and the thana number is 47/1. According to 1951 census, it contained 1,369 dwelling houses with a population of 7,209 (3,667 males and 3,542 females). The total number of literates was 961 (871 males and 90 females).

It has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders. But the agriculturists have predominance in population in the village. The main castes are Bhumihar Brahman, Marwari, Mohammadan, Goala, Potter, Bania and Halwai.

The village has a Post Office, Veterinary Sub-centre, Carpentry centre, *Tel Utpadak Khadi Sahyoga Samiti*. Weavers' Co-operative Society and an outpost of Naugachhia Police-station.

There are two high schools, two primary schools, one *Maktab* and one *Madrasa* in the village.

The main occupation of the people of the village is cultivation. Cultivators produce mainly maize, castor-seed, Jawar, Bajra and paddy. The yield of maize is about 7 to 10 maunds per *bigha*. There are about 15 families of potters who make utensils of clay. There are about 10 families of shoe-makers who manufacture shoes. There are about 20 miscellaneous and about 10 cloth shops in the village.

There are about 10 big grain-golas in the village which fulfil the demand of grains of Naugachhia, Bihpur, Katihar, Chapra, Calcutta, Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur, etc. There is a proposal of Government to pass Barauni-Assam oil pipe line through the northern side of the village. There is a flour mill in the village.

So far as the trade is concerned about 100 persons are engaged in it and in miscellaneous goods. Maize and castor is the main product of the village. They send the stuff to Calcutta and Naugachhia. For maize Naugachhia is the main market.

There is a statutory Gram Panchayat in the village. There are four libraries in the village, namely, Nirmal *Pustakalaya*, Sarswati *Pustakalaya*, Rahmania library and Bal-Brind *Pustakalaya*. Besides, there are two centres for physical development and two centres for development of music in the village.

Lachmipur.—A village situated about 16 miles south-east of Banka, commands a lovely view being surrounded by rivers, hills and forests. Formerly it was the seat of the *Thakurs* of Lachmipur having an extensive zamindari with an income of about 3½ lakhs per year. The estate, has, however, been taken up by the Government under the Land Reforms Act. Lachmipur has a cool climate even in summer season. It had a Sanskrit College which was shifted to Deoghar.

Laudia-Lakhpura.—It is situated at a distance of 30 miles from Bhagalpur and is on Bhagalpur-Panjwara Road which takes off from Bhagalpur-Dumka Road at a distance of 5 miles from this village. It is 12 miles east of Banka the subdivisional headquarters of the village and 10 miles from Godda a subdivisional town of the district of Santhal Parganas towards the west. The nearest railway station is Panjwara Road railway station of Eastern Railway on Bhagalpur-Mandar hill branch.

The village is bounded on the north by villages Jasopatra and Habatpur, on the south by village Sabalpur, on the east by villages Kachmachia, Baida Chak and Aphra, on the west by villages Bela and Bhawanandpur.

It is said that long ago there was a king who had one lakh villages in his possession. As this village happened to be the last one in enumeration it was called Lakhpura and the adjoining village was called Laudia and the two villages taken together are called Laudia Lakhpura. There does not appear to be any basis for the claim for the place because this is a clear afterthought.

The lie of the land is plain. The soil is *Kewal* and very productive. The village is liable to flood during the rainy season when the river Sukhania is in spate. But flood is a boon for the village and not a calamity for the flood water irrigates the fields. The village has an area of 980.50 acres.

On a local survey it was found that the village had a population of 2,056 inhabitants consisting of Brahmins, Rajputs, Harijans and other Backward communities. There is not a single Muslim resident in the village. The language spoken by the people is called *Chhikachhiki*, a dialect of Maithili.

The village has 385 houses of which only 39 are brick-built and the rest are mud-built with straw or tiled roofing.

The main agricultural produce of the village are paddy, wheat, barley, maize, gram, *khesari*, *rahar* and mustard.

There is one high school, one boys' U. P. school, one girls' U. P. school and one girls' middle school in the village. The medium of instruction in these schools is Hindi. Nearly 33 per cent of the population of the village is literate. There are some 25 graduates in it. But co-education does not appear to be popular for only one girl reads with boys in the local high school. There are three libraries in the village. The libraries are:—(*i*) Gandhi *Pustakalaya*, (*ii*) Shri Rastriya *Pustakalaya* and (*iii*) Shri Bhawani *Pustakalaya*. There is one State Dispensary, a Post Office, a *Natya Kala Mandir* and a Gram Panchayat in the village.

A small mela is held in the village on each Tuesday in which people come from the adjoining villages to sacrifice goats in the *Kali* temple of the village. The annual mela called *Bhandara* is also held in the village on the first Tuesday of *Magh* which generally falls in January.

Madangiri Bundh.—An irrigation project constructed by Banaili Raj by erecting a huge dam across a gap between the two hills. It has a big reservoir of water and irrigates about twenty villages in Belhar police-station.

Mathurapur.—Mathurapur village in Sadar subdivision has a Railway Station of Eastern Railway. It has an area of 1,487 acres and according to the census of 1951 its total population was 1,654 (861 males and 793 females) with 219 households.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Colgong police-station and Colgong block. The railway station is named Shiva Narayanpur. Shri Shiva Narayan Ram, an ex-landlord has established a *hat*, Shiv Narayanpur *hat* near the station which is held on Mondays and Fridays. There is another *hat* in the village called Mathurapur *hat* which is held on every Saturday. It is a cattle *hat*.

The village has a large water-logged area known as Bhorang *jheel*. The lake has small jungles and bushes and attracts winter birds, and is a good shooting and picnic spot. Game birds, wild boars and blue bulls are occasionally found.

The village has a post office, a higher secondary school, a primary and a middle school. There is co-education in the middle school. There is one public library containing about

2,000 books. There is a veterinary hospital, a Government dispensary and also a private dispensary in the village.

The population may be divided into the following castes (in order of population):—

(*i*) Chandel Kurmi, (*ii*) Santhal, (*iii*) Chamar, (*iv*) Dusadh, (*v*) Mohammadans, (*vi*) Dhobi, (*vii*) Jaiswal Kurmi, (*viii*) Pasi and (*ix*) Mehtar.

The main occupation of the people is cultivation. Some are engaged in grain business or in the making of *gur* from sugarcane juice.

Nagarpara.—Nagarpara is situated about 5 miles west from thana Bihpur junction. The nearest railway station is Narayanpur which is about 3 miles south from the village.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Bihpur *Anchal* and under the Bihpur police-station. According to 1951 census it contained 679 dwelling houses with a population of 3,855 (1,821 males and 2,034 females). The total number of literates was 854, i. e., 721 males and 133 females.

It has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders. The agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Rajput, Brahman, Dusadh, Chamar, Bania, Barber and Giri Gosai.

The village has a post office and a Multipurpose Co-operative Society. There is a primary school, a middle school, and a Teachers' Training School. The entire expenditure of Teachers' Training School is borne by the State Government. The Government gives stipend of rupees 20 to every trainee. There are two libraries in the village, namely, Mithila Mahila *Pustakalaya* and Udho *Pustakalaya* (1937). The Mithila Mahila *Pustakalaya* (1948) is an organisation run by the ladies. About 75 women are members of the library.

There is a statutory Gram Panchayat in the village. But the Mukhiya is of another village. They take their cases firstly to Mukhiya and then to court if the case is not settled.

Nathnagar.—It is a congested part of Bhagalpur town covering Municipality Ward numbers 6 and 7. It has an area of 2.51 square miles. Nathnagar railway station of the Eastern Railway serves this area. The Bhagalpur-Sultanganj Road passes through it.

It is said that in ancient times a Maithil Brahman saint named Nathmal took his abode at this place and gradually

a village grew up at this place which was called Nathnagar after his name.

According to the figures supplied by the Bhagalpur Municipality on the basis of the census held in 1961, there are 5,187 household with a population of 32,560 persons of whom 17,403 are males and 15,131 are females. The number of male literates is 8,760 while the number of female literates is 3,545. The literacy amongst males comes to 50 per cent while amongst females it is only 2 per cent. The majority of the population belongs to muslim weaver class engaged in silk spinning and weaving. Most of the silk known as Bhagalpur silk is spun here. Silk spinning and weaving form an important cottage industry of Nathnagar. There is a Government Silk Institute for imparting training in silk industry.

Nathnagar has one important college named Tej Narain Banaili College. It is a constituent college of Bhagalpur University. There is one higher secondary school named R. B. Sukhraj Roy Higher Secondary School, two secondary schools, *viz.*, (*i*) Gurukul *Parweshika Pathshala* and (*ii*) Girls' High School. There are two middle schools and 17 primary schools teaching through the medium of Hindi and one primary school teaching through the medium of Urdu. It has a District Board dispensary named Budhiya Dispensary, one veterinary hospital, one library, one Hindu *Anathalya*, one Muslim orphanage, one cinema hall named Jawahar Talkies, one *Anchal* office and four boring stations for supply of drinking water.

Besides these there are two Jain *mandirs*, two Hindu temples, one *sthan* for Nagpuja, three Thakurbaris and 5 mosques. As the Jain *mandirs* are considered sacred places by the Jain community, they are visited by the Jains from distant places between the months of October and March. The Behula *mela* to commemorate *Sati* Behula on the occasion of Nagpuja takes place in the month of *Srawan*. On the Sankranti day of *Srawan* a big *mela* is held at Nathnagar. Jhulan festival is also held in every Thakurbari of Nathnagar.

Nathnagar grows a huge quantity of green vegetables. There are some large mango orchards which grow a large variety of mangoes.

Naugachia.—According to the Census Rules a *town* means a place having Municipality, Notified Area Committee or Cantonment or a place which has been declared to be a town. The concept of a town in 1961 census is slightly different. Any place with a population of more than 5,000 persons, with density of more than 1,000 persons per square mile and if at least 75 per cent

of adult male population is engaged in non-agricultural occupations fulfils the conditions of being a town.

Naugachhia has been declared a town in 1961 census and it also fulfils the above conditions of being a town. It has been reported that this town has been named after a *tola* named Naugachia *tola*. It is situated 69 k.m. north-east of the district headquarters on the other side of the river Ganga. It contains a Police-Station, a Notified Area Committee and a District Board Dak Bungalow and is the headquarters of Naugachhia Development Block.

Naugachhia is bounded by the villages Makhotakia and Nawada on the north, villages Saidpur and Pakra on the south and villages Gopalpur and Manoharpur towards the east and west respectively. Naugachhia has a railway station on the North-Eastern Railway. It is densely populated. Its population is approximately 8,707 according to the provisional census report of 1961. The total area of the village is 5 sq. miles with 1,200 occupied houses. It is a place of commercial and trade importance. The commodities like maize, jute, wheat, linseed, castor seed. etc., are exported from here to Chapra, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Purnea, Siliguri. The town has about 8 *arhatias*, 20 whole-sale dealers, 60 retail-sale dealers and about 55 shops to sell the articles. There is a branch of State Bank of India.

The town is inhabited by Hindu and Muhammadan communities. The Hindu community consists of about twenty castes. The Marwaris and Banias form the largest majority in the town. The number of Rajputs, Bhumihars, Kayasthas and Kurmis is not so high.

As regards other castes, *viz*., Dhanuk, Dhobi, Kahar, Pasi, Dusadh, Chamar, Gwala, it may be mentioned that they are not in majority. Most of them are employed as labourers. The Muhammadan community is in a minority from population point of view. Some of them are tailors, while others have gone outside the town in service.

The lands are fertile. The main crops are wheat, maize, *arhar*, linseed, castor seed, etc., which are exported to other districts of the State, and fetch a large amount of money from outside. In dry season, the cultivation of melon and water-melon is done on a large scale and the poorer classes derive benefit from it. Maize is the main cash crop.

Though there are ten primary schools, one girls' middle school, one high school and one college, namely, Gajadhar Bhagat College yet the percentage of students reading from Naugachhia

town is comparatively very small. Again it may be mentioned that the area is occupied with business class of people. Their guardians are not enthusiastic to give adequate education to their children. Hardly 5 per cent of the people are educated.

A few years back all the prostitutes of this town had their habitation in the heart of the town. There has been an organised effort to separate them. Especially the authorities of Notified Area Committee with the help of police helped the people to root out prostitution. Now-a-days the number has declined. The abolition of zamindari and the economic deterioration of the hitherto cushioned moneyed class has visibly affected the economic condition of these women. Drinking and gambling are discouraged.

As regards trade and commerce it may be mentioned that about 25 per cent of the population is engaged in trade and commerce. The chief commercial classes are Agarwals, Agraharis, Marwaris and the Banias. Marwaris are well known and form an enterprising commercial community. They have played an important role in enhancing the importance on trade and commerce. They are both bankers and traders. Banias are usually petty traders in cloth and grains and they are the people that usually have the groceries as well as the familiar *pan-wala's* shop at street crossings.

The principal imports are rice, paddy, gram and other food-grains from Purnea, Arrah, Patna and Punjab, etc. The exports are maize, wheat, jute, linseed, etc.

The grain and fish trade are of particular importance. Even at the worst time when crops fail and prices rise the Marwaris and Banias have merely to buy large stock of grains at a higher price. The main trade routes of the town are the waterways and railways.

From the communication point of view this town is backward. About two miles of *pucca* and three miles of *kucha* roads are maintained by Notified Area Committee. The Notified Area Committee has not been able to provide good source of water supply to the people of the town. The town contains about 300 *pucca* wells which is the only source of water supply. There is a telephone exchange having about 45 connections. The town is not yet electrified.

From medical and public health point of view the town is most backward. The town contains a branch of Anti-Malaria Centre, a hospital where six indoor beds have been provided. There are five Allopathic, five Homoeopathic and three Ayurvedic practitioners in the town which is quite insufficient for a population

of about 8,707. There is no sewerage system within the town and there is a general lack of sense of sanitation. Lavatory does not exist excepting in the houses of well-to-do people and the problems of clearing the lavatory is becoming rather acute.

Patharghatta hill or Bateshwar-Sthan.—J. Byrne in the old Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) mentions:—

> "Hill in the Bhagalpur district, Bengal, situated on the banks of the Ganges in 25° 17′ and 25° 22′ N. and 87° 12′ and 87° 16′ E. On the northern side of the hill are some rock sculptures dating prior to the 7th or 8th century A. D. They are known as the Chaurasi Muni (84 sages) but are supposed to represent scenes from the adventures of Krishna and Ram. The hill also contains five caves, in the most important of which, the Bateshwar cave, bronze and silver relics have been discovered."

Since then more data have come in. Patharghatta hill (commonly known as Bateshwar-Sthan) is situated at a distance of 6 miles north-east from Colgong railway station of Eastern Railway.

A century ago this place was known as *Silasangama* and was said to be the confluence of the rivers Kosi and Ganga at the foot of the hills. The range of the Bateshwar or Patharghatta hill proceeding from a point approximately a quarter of a mile to the east of the Ganga gradually attains its peak at the water's edge, and terminates abruptly like a "bluff".

Half way up the hill on its western and northern facets are caves known as *Guhasthanam*; some of them have cut stone doors; one cave is three-roomed and much affected by age and the axe. There is another spacious cave cut into the rocks to the east of the Bateshwar temple; one below the *Chowrasi munis* and another called *Pathalpuri*, at the same level as the *Chowrasi munis* facing north. There is a narrow passage which is blocked by collapsed rocks.

The mound at the top of the Bateshwar hill contains ancient remains. Its eastern flank is reduced to a deep trench and it is said that many ancient relics have been removed. Many stone and bronze images have been excavated here which are believed to belong to the Pala and Gupta periods.

There is a temple of Mahadeva on the hill at Bateshwarnath. This temple is of recent times. At the time of *Shiva Ratri*, a *mela* is held and about 10,000 visitors come from all over India to offer *puja* to Mahadeva.

The location of the Patharghatta or Bateshwar-Sthan on the north flowing Ganga (*Uttar Bahini*) is said to faithfully match the description in *Uttar Purana*. It is said that Acharya Kampillya of the Bauddha Tantra School re-incarnated as Dharmapala, the famous Buddhist King built the monastery (809 A. D.) and with it the University. It cannot be said yet with certainty that Vikramshila University was actually sited here.

Even a casual visit to Bateshwar-Sthan would impress one with the idea that the area is very ancient. The caves, the cut stone doors, caverns and the carvings support the theory of a huge monastery and a place of study. The mound on the top of the "bluff" (Bateshwar hill) contains ancient structural designs. Some of the relics salvaged from here were presented by the Late Shri H. C. Ganguly of Colgong to the Patna Museum. These include image of Buddha, Avalokitesvara and not strangely enough an old time canon and a sword. The last two suggest that the *Vihara* was later converted by the Muslims into a fort.

The trenches exposed terminals of walls built of ancient bricks resting on long stone beds suggesting divisions of the structure into cells. Large and flat bricks have been found similar to those found in Nalanda in Patna District and at Nandangarh in Champaran District.

The department of Archaeology had excavated a very small fraction of the site and the clearance had exposed deep foundations and a monastic lay-out comparable to that at Nalanda. The investigation of the entire area is expected to yield valuable finds. The entire area is rich in traditions and antiquities. Some of the stones and bronze images have been identified to belong to the Pala and Gupta period. Some of them are:—Dhyani Buddha, Buddha in *Bhumisparsa Mudra*, crowned Buddha on a double pedestal over lotus on the sides, a lion in the middle with *Bodhi* leaves, Ganga on Makara, Manasa, Tara, Surya, Kali, etc. Some of the finds of this area are in worship in village Tadva near Pirpainty. There are rock carvings at Bateshwar-Sthan and friezes. One of the stones portrays the Sishupala *Badha* episode. Here we find Krishna on *Garuda* with outstretched wings throws a discuss through Sishupala's neck and severes his head rolling over and hundreds of horror stricken faces in the background. Another scene is Krishna holding the hill in his finger tip (*Govardhan Dharan*). Another frieze shows the *Gopis* manipulating the churner.

An investigator, Shri L. K. Mishra, Secretary of the Bateshwara-Sthan-Vikramshila *Raksha Samiti*, Colgong, also thinks that the area was also the headquarters of a Government and a military base. According to him this was one of the *Jayaskandhavaras* a temporary capital and was one of such of the Pala

kings, Dr. R. C. Mazumdar traces Bateshwar-Sthan to be one such on the basis of a manuscript *Tirtha Mangal* preserved in the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad in Calcutta. A copper plate grant of Gopala II (circa 940-60 A.D.) was issued probably from Vata-parvatika, i. e., modern Bateshwar hill. This was discovered at village Jajilpara in Malda District of undivided Bengal. Its facsimile and a translation from the sanskrit text appeared in the Bengal Journal of "Bharatvarsa" of Shravan, 1344 B. S. The original plate was then in B. R. Sen Museum at Malda.

The last battles between the Sena and the Pala Kings occurred in this region. The Palas were defeated and Ballala Sena proclaimed his father-in-law Butto Krishna Mitra, King of Magadha (Bangiya Kayastha Kula Panjika).

According to Nagendra Nath Basu, Prachya Vidya Maharnava Buto Krishna Mitra erected a *Shiva* temple to commemorate the event, at this place.

A stone block in possession of Shri L. K. Mishra is with incised 8/9th-century character and the text in Sanskrit salvaged from ruins speaks of a dedication "to God Batteshvara celebrated in the fourth quarter of the *Punarvasu nakshatra* on the second *tithi* of the bright half of Asadha :" the year is illegible.

The mound from which this inscription was recovered has a lay-out of a massive structure. As one or two *Shaiva* features were found, this site was presumably a *Shiva* temple site. The foundation is deep and covers over half an acre of an elevated plot at the foot of which is a large disused tank. By the side of this mound is a *Shivalingam* in a temple which certainly is not modern. The *Shivalingam* of fine black stone and in excellent preservation is 16.1/4" in diameter. Further research and actual excavations alone can finally decide whether this was the temple erected by Butto Krishna Mitra.

Of the two principal *Shivalingam* at Batesvarnath, one in the temple and the other in the hollow of a *vata* tree, the latter probably has a greater antiquity, noticed as it has been in the Uttar-Puran.

The region is not without the landmarks of the Mohammadan penetration into Bengal which, further research may confirm, first commenced here. Interspersed here and there and in the central parts of the ruined area are Muslim structures. A stone-built mosque is in fair preservation; one is crumbling away; there are some very old graves in a single line; a couple of mausoleums are crumbling away; and the tomb of Mohammad Shah, the last king of Gauda (A. D. 1539) which has been protected.

The village in the neighbourhood of Patharghatta hill, Oriup, Antichak, Nawada, etc., can still yield valuable finds. The non-official committee referred to before has done a pioneering work and a systematic exploration by the Archaeological Department is now necessary. Recently, the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture of Patna University has carried out certain excavations at village Antichak with a view to determine the ancient site of Vikramshila University. The excavations were done in 1960 and 1961 and have disclosed different periods of habitation. The natural structure exposed and the antiquities reiterate that the site was probably the remains of a large monastery. The number of Buddha images of stone and terracottas have been discovered. Some inscribed seals and *Votiva stupas* have also been found. The script of the inscription appears to belong to the Pala-Sena period.

It may be mentioned here that a number of antiquities of this area are preserved in the Patna Museum. Some of them are black stone figure of Tara, a black stone of Bodhisattva, Avolokitesvara preaching *Mudra* with five Dhyani Buddhas at the back, one side Tara, and another a male figure, a black stone image of Surya, black stone Sakti, Kartikaya, etc. They have all been identified to be of the medieval period.

It may be mentioned here that the references of Fahian and Hieun-Tsang to an ancient site which was identified by General Cunningham with a place near Monghyr may not be the last word of it. General Cunningham had not looked into the ruins at Bateshwar-Sthan. Hieun-Tsang mentioned that on the western boundary on the bank of Ganga there is a solitary hill with rocks near about and *Bhagwan* Buddha lived for three months there during the rains and there he suppressed Vakula. Earlier Fahian had mentioned "Proceeding from Patliputra 13 *Yojans* along the right bank of Ganga Fahian arrived in the extensive Kingdom of Champa where he saw *stupas* whereupon the Buddha had stayed." This distance is approximately 144 modern miles, but the deviation in the course of the Ganga may account for the difference. Later researches and excavations may be awaited for a more authoritative conclusion.

In recent years the Bengal Potteries had taken lease of the clay mine at Bateshwar-Sthan and had been working there. This led to a series of litigation and intervention by the administrative authorities.

Pirpainty.—Pirpainty village in Sadar subdivision is 30 miles east of Bhagalpur. It has a railway station, a police-station, an Inspection Bungalow, a Post Office and is the headquarters of Pirpainti Development Block. It is bounded by Ganga in the north and east and by a hill range in the south and west. Its population

is near about 3,600. The total area of the village is 5 square miles with 600 occupied houses. It is a place of commercial and trade importance. The commodities like jute, wheat, linseed, castor seed, etc., are exported from here to various parts of the State. When Pirpainti is connected by the metalled road with Godda (under construction) it will have more of business. Pirpainty enjoyed a good turnover of river borne trade which, however, has had a decline owing to the shifting of river Ganga about three miles from the village. Pirpainty exports a lot of milk Products.

The town is inhabited by Hindu and Muhammadan communities. The Hindu Community consists of about fifteen castes. The number of Rajputs, Bhumihars, Kayasthas and Kurmis is not so high. The village is rather crowded and present insanitary condition.

The village has a *Madrasa*, a lower school, an upper primary school, a middle school and a high school. There is no separate teaching arrangement for girls. The incidence of literacy is poor.

From the communication point of view this village is more backward. Almost all the roads are *kutcha* roads.

There are agriculturists, businessmen, landless labourers, *bidi* workers. The general economic condition of the ordinary agriculturists is not good. The economic condition of the landless labourers is very poor. They are mostly engaged during agricultural period. Some of them are engaged by the businessmen and some of them drive *ekkas* (light vehicles drawn by a single pony).

It is remarkable that in this village there are almost 800 or more *bidi* makers, some of whom are women. They are paid Rs. 1.62 for every one thousand *bidis*. *Bidis* are sent outside the village. The businessmen are generally well off.

There is a *Kali* temple and a *Mahadeo* temple in the village. From medical and public health point of view the village is most backward. The village has a State Dispensary, private Allopathic, Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic practitioners.

A description of Pirpainty as it was about 136 years back will be found in Bishop Heber's Journal, Vol. I, page 199, "Peer Pointee is at the foot of a detatched hill. There were some eminences beyond it and that we were not entering another so complete plain as that enormous one which we had traversed. Peer Pointee, Father or St. Pointee, was the name of a Mussulman saint, less picturesquely situated, stands on a little cliff about the river, with some fine bamboos hanging over it".

Bishop Heber was taken round the base of the hill and found a number of relics.

Puraini.—The village Puraini is situated at a distance of 7 miles south of Bhagalpur on the Bhagalpur-Bounsi Road. The village is

also served by Bhagalpur-Mandar Hill branch line of the Eastern Railway. The railway station is very close to the village.

Village Dustani Baijani on the north, Nooruddinpur and Augari in south, Sarath in east and Salimpur in west are the villages which bound the village Puraini.

As to the origin of the name of the village it is said that a washerman named Puran Dhobi lived in the village Modanchak which is close to it in ancient time. One night he dreamt that the piece of stone on which he washed clothes should be taken to such a place where its weight considerably decreased and this would be the central place of the village. He did accordingly and the village in which he kept the stone was called Puraini after his name. It is believed that the same stone is lying in a village mosque. The washerman had changed his religion and become Muslim.

The population according to 1951 census is 5,890. It is said that the Muslims form about 73 per cent of the present population. The area of the village is about 2,305 acres and the number of households is about 1,300. The cultivated area is about 1,400 acres. The rest are sandy tracts. The village is thickly populated. This is a very big muslim village consisting of 26 *tolas*. The village is divided into three different *Gram Panchayats*. The sanitary condition is far from satisfactory. The houses are mostly *kuchcha* with thatched and tiled roofs. A handful of houses are *pucca*. On the whole, the houses are in a very delapidated condition and present a deplorable look. There are three *kuchcha* roads and many narrow lanes in the village. There is no medical facility in the village and most of them have to go to Jagdishpur dispensary at a distance of 3 miles. The water of the village wells excepting 4 is generally hard and saline. There is only one pond in the village where the inhabitants take their bath. The village is endowed with innumerable palm trees and the villagers are mostly toddy drinkers. The village has an extra departmental post office having no savings bank or telegram facilities.

The village is susceptible to floods during the rainy season when the river Chanan is in spate. It causes heavy damage to the village. It sweeps away crops and damages houses. Cattle are the usual victims of the floods.

The village has no high or middle school but has one U. P. school, two L. P. schools for boys, two L. P. schools for girls and one lower basic school for boys. There are three private *Madrasas* where religious education is imparted. The percentage of literacy is very low.

The general economic condition of even the so called big agriculturist is not satisfactory due to the regular floods in the river Chanan. The weavers are very poor. They have no money to purchase yarn and weave independently. They have to depend for the yarns on the *Mahajans* of Bhagalpur and make over the finished cloth

to them. They simply get the wages of their labour. They are very fine weavers and their finished *Tasar* cloths are of good quality. The village is famous for *Tasar* weaving. This cottage industry is a fine example of joint venture by family members.

The village is important for *biri* product. Not only men but also women engage themselves inside the four walls of their houses in manufacturing *biri*. The *biri* workers get Rs. 1.62 per thousand as their wages. They also are economically poor.

The village also owes its importance due to its business in hide and skin. These are sent to different leather factories and those engaged in the trade draw handsome income. The village has different kinds of shops such as *kirana* shop, sweet meat centre, cloth shop, foodgrain shop, tea and betel stalls. The businessmen are economically well off. Except Saturdays and Tuesday, everyday is a market day.

A cattle market is held on every Friday. Cattle of different varieties are brought here from different villages. The village is famous for its cattle market.

The village has 7 mosques and no temple. Muharram is very enthusiastically celebrated. Both the communities participate openheartedly in the festival.

Rajapokhar.—It is a small village on Bhagalpur-Dumka Road about twenty-one miles from Banka. It has a small Dak-Bungalow with a beautiful scenery alround. The hills, forests, waterpools, and a rivulet in the vicinity of the Dak Bungalow make it a picnic spot. Used to be a favourite spot for *shikar*.

Sabour.—Sabour is a village and police-station in the Sadar subdivision of Bhagalpur district. It is about 7 miles east of Bhagalpur town and is connected with it by Bhagalpur-Ghogha metalled road. It is served by Sabour station of Eastern Railway also.

Sabour has an area of 918.41 acres and is bounded on the north by villages Chouka and Rajindipur, on the south by Eastern Railway line, on the east by village Khankita and on the west by village Jhurkhuria.

A comparative statement of the population of this village as enumerated in the censuses of 1951 and 1961 is given below :—

	1951.	1961.
Number of occupied houses	679	1,010
Male population	2,149	2,756
Female population	1,923	2,637
Total—Population	4,071	5,393
Male literates	711	1,035
Female literates	300	249
Total—Literates	1,011	1,284

No definite opinion about incidence of literacy can be formed, because of the shifting male and female population of the village which consist mostly of employees and their families and students of the Agriculture College, and no separate figures were available for the permanent residents of the village. However, certain facilities for education have been provided in the village in the shape of one Co-educational Higher Secondary School and one L. P. School for girls. The Agriculture College is located in this village and has its college buildings and hostels in it, but its staff quarters, its agricultural land, its gardens and inspection bungalow are located to the south of the railway line.

The area occupied by the Agriculture College and its appendages is beautifully planned and well looked after. It is worth seeing. The village inhabited by the permanent residents stands in strong contrast to this area. In the village proper though there are *pucca* houses and educated people, there is no good arrangement for sanitation and the lanes and bye-lanes are *kachcha* and become muddy and waterlogged during the rains.

The main occupation of the villagers is cultivation and Government service. The main agricultural productions are maize, wheat and vegetables, and the main fruit crop is mango. The village is provided with a cold storage plant for storing mangoes and vegetables. The production of vegetables is more than sufficient for the locality and they are exported to Calcutta and Bhagalpur. *Biri*-making, mat-making, shoe-making and carpentry are the main cottage industries in the village.

There are two *Thakurbaris* but there is no mosque in the village proper. Two *melas* are held in the village, one on the occasion of *Diwali* and the other in the month of *Chait*. There are four market days in the village, viz., Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The village is inhabited by Maithil Brahmans, Muslims, Kayasthas, Kahars, Chamars, Washermen, Carpenters, Barbers, Dusadhs and Telis. These castes have been arranged in this list in the decending order of their numbers. Of these castes, Maithil Brahmans are not only the largest in number but also are the best educated of the lot and are employed in high positions in Government service.

To provide for medical, cultural and social amenities there is one State dispensary and one Veterinary dispensary, one social education centre, four libraries, one Drama *Mandali*, two *Kirtan Mandalis* and one youth league.

The village has a Sub-Post Office with banking, telegram, and telephone facilities. There is a block office and a *Gram Panchayat*.

The village may now be called a suburb of Bhagalpur as it has constant direct contact with Bhagalpur through rail, buses, rickshaws and *tamtams*. Sabour will soon develop into a satellite town of Bhagalpur.

Sadar subdivision.—The Sadar subdivision of Bhagalpur has a total area of 292 square miles covering 59,865 acres. It has 115 villages and 4 towns, namely Bhagalpur, Sultanganj, Colgong and Naugachhia. Previously according to 1951 census there were only two towns, namely Bhagalpur and Colgong.

The Sadar subdivision is bounded on the north by Katihar and Madhipura subdivisions of the districts of Purnea and Saharsa respectively, on the east by Sahibganj and Godda subdivisions of the District of Santhal Parganas, on the west by portions of Monghyr District and on the south by Banka subdivision of Bhagalpur District.

The total population of the subdivision according to the two last censuses are :—

	Total population.	Males.	Females.	Rural.	Urban.
1951 ..	8,41,309	4,32,846	4,08,463	7,19,264	1,22,045
1961 ..	10,26,352	5,31,126	4,95,226	8,51,949	1,74,403

The total urban population of the four towns, mentioned before comes to 1,74,403 and forms 16.7 per cent of the total population.

Out of the total population of Sadar subdivision indicated, there are 5,31,126 males and 4,95,226 females. There are 1,81,637 households. The percentage of literates is small and counts only 3,29,788 out of which 1,78,528 are males and 1,51,260 are females.

The subdivision is divided into two parts by the river Ganga which flows from west to east. The smaller part lies to the north of river while the larger part is to the south. The bulk of the subdivision has alluvial plains except portions in Colgong Pirpainti and Shahkund area where there are small hillocks. The main rivers of the subdivision are Ganga, Kosi, Chandan, Badua and Garua. The smaller rivers, namely. Sukhania, Gahira and Bhaina merge from the hill area of the Santhal Parganas and get sudden but short living floods in the rainy seasons. There is no jungle now in Sadar subdivision. Big games are not available. Blue-bulls or *Nil Gai* are often seen in Akbarnagar and Sultanganj areas damaging crops. A large variety of fish are available in the rivers and in the tanks.

There are two Municipalities in Sadar subdivision, namely, Bhagalpur and Colgong while there are two Notified Area Committees for Naugachhia and Sultanganj. The main crops, trade and commerce, industry, schools and colleges, etc. of Sadar subdivision have been described elsewhere.

The following places in the Sadar subdivision have got historical importance, namely, Antichak, Shahkumari hill, Khairai hill, Ajgaibi Nath and Bateswarnath.

Antichak is in Colgong P.-S. and it is about six miles from Colgong town. Old relics are found here which are said to be of Bikramshila University. It is reported that recently a seal of Bikramshila University has been excavated and the matter is under investigation.

Shahkumari hill is a hillock just on the east of the railway line at Colgong. There is a plinth on the hillock said to be of Mughal period.

Khairi hill is near Shahkund. There is a Shiva *Linga* on the top of the hill. A temple is under construction. A *mela* is held here on every Monday throughout the year.

Ajgaibi Nath is a Shiva temple in the islet of the river Ganga at Sultanganj. It is at a distance of about 1¼ miles from the Sultanganj railway station.

Bateswarnath is a Shiva temple situated at a distance of about six miles from Colgong. The temple is situated on the Bateswar hill. A *mela* is held during *Maghi Purnima* in which thousands of people congregate.

The Subdivisional Officer, Sadar is the head of the civil administration of the Sadar subdivision and he is directly under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. The headquarters of Sadar subdivision is located at Bhagalpur which is also the district and divisional headquarters and as such the Sadar Subdivisional Officer has the advantage of closer supervision from the District Magistrate. There are 14 police-stations, namely, Bhagalpur Kotwali, Mojahidpur, Nathnagar, Sabour, Jagdishpur, Colgong, Sonhaula, Pirpainti, Shahkund, Sultanganj, Naugachhia, Bihpur and Gopalpur. Out of these the first three are within Bhagalpur municipality. Sabour, Jagdishpur, Sultanganj, Shahkund and Sonhaula police thanas are connected with Bhagalpur town by all weather metalled roads. The thana headquarters of Colgong and Pirpainti are not connected with Bhagalpur with all weather metalled roads. They are, however, connected by rail and fair weather roads. There is a metalled road from Bhagalpur to Colgong intersected, however, by three channels (Ghogha Nala, Tirmohan and Koa Nala) where there is provision of ferry service during the rainy season. The thana headquarters of Naugachhia, Bihpur and Gopalpur are connected with Bhagalpur by steamer and rail.

There is complete separation of executive and judiciary in this district. As such the Sadar, Subdivisional Officer's functions are:—

(i) His judicial function has already been described in the chapter, "Law, Order and Justice".

(*ii*) He is in charge of the administrative and development work of his subdivision under the control of the District Magistrate. He is in charge of law and order of his subdivision.

The Sadar subdivision has got 11 *anchals*. The *Anchal* is an unit for revenue administration and for development work. Each *Anchal* has been placed under a Gazetted officer who is called Block Development Officer-*cum-Anchal Adhikari*. He is normally of the rank of Deputy Collector or Sub-Deputy Collector.

An Anchal Adhikari or the Block Development Officer has to do all the revenue and development work of an *Anchal*. He is the head of his office and works under the Subdivisional Officer and the District Magistrate. He is both the drawing and disbursing officer of funds for his *Anchal*. He has got a staff of gazetted and non-gazetted officers under him to look after the revenue or development work. He is vested with the powers of a Magistrate, Second Class to maintain law and order in his *Anchal*.

Shahkund.—Shahkund owes its name to a big tank 1,300 feet by 600 feet on the northern edge of which is a grave of a Shah Saheb (Muslim saint). Evidently Shahkund means the tank of the Shah Saheb.

The revenue village Kasbakhorhi is in Sadar subdivision. There is no separate revenue village by the name Shahkund. It is the headquarters of a Police Station and a Block Office. The village is situated at the foot of a hillock called Kherhi Pahar. Remnants of old buildings and old temples are found on Kherhi Pahar and in its vicinity. There is a theory that Kherhi Pahar was the site of the ancient Vikramshila University.

It is at a distance of about 8 miles from Sultanganj and also from Nathnagar and 6 miles from Akbarnagar the nearest railway station of the Eastern Railway. The village is connected by metalled roads from Bhagalpur, viz. (*i*) *via* Akbarnagar and (*ii*) *via* Banka. In between Shahkund and Akbarnagar there is a rivulet named Chanan. During rainy season it was difficult to cross the river. A bridge has been constructed now.

According to 1951 census the population of the village is 878 out of which 418 are males and 460 females. There are 89 literates out of which 85 are males and 4 are females. The percentage of literacy comes to 10.7 per cent. The village has an area of 672 acres and 158 occupied houses.

Recently a large number of ancient relics consisting of broken statues, pieces of railings, etc., have been found in a well. The discovery supports the theory that Shahkund has an ancient tradition and probably an excavation will yield valuable results.

There is a theory that Shahkund area was the site of the capital of Sasanka, one of the Bengal kings, circa 600 A.D. Although this

is not established, there can be no doubt about the rich past of the area. A visit to the hill Kheri *Pahar* shows that on the highest point there is a circular opening in the mound lined with bricks like a well about 15′ across. Surrounding the well is an area of building foundations and plinths which suggest that there might have been a palace or a temple here. Lower down on the slope a flat stone face occurs with inscriptions. At the foot of the hill standing upright is an image of Nrisingha 2½ feet tall, hewn out of black rock and in good preservation. This image is a benign figure, four arms holding a conch, a discus, a mace and a lotus respectively. The image came out while a well was being dug and has been left under a small temple which was built. A Lakshmi image was also recovered from the ruins and it is now being worshipped. There are similar images with various forms which have been taken out from this area and are, now in worhsip. Some of them are said to have got inscriptions.

Some of the images taken out of the Kheri hill were taken to Ranagaon where there is a group of temples. The images from the Kheri hill taken to Ranagaon include an eight armed Durga, a four handed Vishnu in standing posture, a Buddha in *Padmasana* and in *Bhumisparsa Mudra* (touching the earth), a Ganesha and a Tara. All these images are in black stone, wonderful in execution and in a state of good preservation. The Tara recovered from the Kheri hill now in worship in Ranagaon is indeed a great find from its very delicate execution.

There are also a number of abandoned silted ancient tanks at Shahkund—an inseparable feature of an ancient site. Among the collections of old damaged antiquities, there is a female figure in a reclining pose on a couch with head gracefully resting against a raised ground. An exactly similar piece was found in the ruins of ancient Gauda. Fragments of pottery and stone beams and rafters are also found.

Shahkund is particularly famous for the large number of *Shiva lingas*. There is a group of a few near the Shahkund dispensary and one of them has a rare feature of a number of miniature *Shiva lingas* around its body.

Simra.—This village is mainly populated by the Santhal aboriginals and falls under the jurisdiction of Baunsi P.-S. and its thana number is 450. It is about 37 miles south from Bhagalpur and 4 miles west-south from Baunsi and Bhagalpur-Dumka Road. It is about 11 miles south of Banka, the subdivisional headquarters of the village. An unmetalled Baunsi-Deoghar Road *via* Jamdaha runs in the north side of the village.

There are 36 houses in the village out of which 6 houses belong to goalas and 30 belong to Santhals. Thus it can be said that this is a Santhal village. The houses of goalas are situated separately at a distance of one furlong.

According to the 1951 census, the population of this village was 161 (72 males and 89 females) containing 32 houses. The total number of literate persons was 16, i.e., 10 males and 6 females. According to the census of 1961, the population of this village is 196 (99 males and 97 females) containing 36 houses. The total number of literate persons is 42, i.e., 30 males and 12 females. The area of this village is 469 acres. It is under the jurisdiction of Baunsi *Anchal*. The villagers have been much benefited by the *pucca* wells.

The Santhal is an aboriginal tribe of Bihar. This tribe is mainly found in Santhal Parganas of this State. A number of Santhals came from Santhal Parganas in search of livelihood and migrated to this village. Some of them have become settled agriculturists in course of time while some of them are engaged as agricultural labourers or cultivators on *Bataidari* system. They have a separate language, which is called 'Santhali'. The boys of this village speak Maithili dialect fluently. The villagers talk in Hindi with unknown persons. This is the impact of culture.

Home life.—The villagers (Santhals) have arranged their houses in two rows, north and south. Their houses are built of mud and thatched roofing, which are spotlessly clean and tidy. Every now and then they prepare a thick liquid mixture of cow-dung and blackish yellow soft soil and paste it over the floor and the walls of their houses. It makes the walls and the roof appear like plastered one.

In some of the houses of richer and reputed Santhals there is provision for a sitting place or paved courtyard. Late Shri Peroo Manjhi, M.L.A. has a separate guest house. There is no drainage system in the village. A few tile roofed houses are also in this village. The number of rooms depends upon the economic condition of the family. The well-to-do among them have got *Chawkie* (four footed wooden bed) for their sleeping accommodation and for offering it to the guests but mostly use mat.

They are very particular about sanitation and keep their houses very neat and clean. They also display artistic painting on the walls of the houses. The Santhal houses are quite distinct from the other houses. The dwellings generally have no arrangement for latrine. Both the males and females go out in the fields.

The Santhals of this village sell hen, *ghee*, cow-dung-cakes and curd, etc. in market. In this they differ from the Santhals of Purnea who do not sell poultry etc.

Dress.—Their dresses have undergone a change. The males formerly used to wear a *langoti*, i.e. a piece of cloth and the upper portion generally remained uncovered. The females used a *putli* only to cover her lower portion. i.e., from the waist to ankel. But the males now use clothes like the non-aboriginal inhabitants. But some of them wear their original dress, namely, *panchi* or *langoti*. The women-folk use a long piece of cloth and a blouse to cover their breasts. They kept their breasts uncovered before but now they feel embarrassed and cover them.

The women of this Santhal village have been very much attracted by the present fashion. About seven girls are reading in middle school and they wear *sari*, blouse, underwears and *chappal*, etc.

Ornaments.—They use ornaments but they call them by a different name, which is similar to the Santhals of Purnea district. The ornaments generally used by them are Khaggas, Sakkam, Katurprai, Madan har (ring), Bank (used in foot), Hansuli, etc. The ornaments are generally made of silver.

Marriages are mostly performed among the Santhals of Simra village by negotiation but marriage by kidnapping or by forcing vermilion, by elopement and by service are also in practice.

Superstition.—The Santhals of this village are also superstitious like their brethren in Santhal Parganas and Purnea. They believe in ancestral worship. They also believe in witchcraft and regard an outbreak of any disease in a virulent form as a result of witchcraft. They immediately contact *janguru* (their priests who are supposed to have the power to combat the black magic of the witch) and ask about the reason of the outbreak. They with the help of their power disclose the name of any women to be responsible for the disease. If the matter is confirmed, the witch is sometimes badly beaten and turned out from the locality.

Bithlaha is practically out of practice in Simra village. The Santhals of this village maintain a very good relation with their non-aboriginals.

Panchayat.—The Panchayat consists of *Manjhi* and *Pranik* who may be described as the President and Vice-President respectively while there are two other executives known as *Jog Manjhi* and *Jog Pranik*. These members of the Panchayat try their best to settle criminal or civil matters between themselves.

Sonhaula.—A village in sadar subdivision, 10 miles south of Ghogha station of Eastern Railway. The village is on a metalled road from Ghogha.

There is an unauthentic story that the name of the village has taken after a rich Mohammadan villager Sanah Ulla. The majority of the villagers are Mohammadans. The Hindus of the village belong to various castes as Brahman, Blacksmith, Teli, Goala, Dhobi, Potter, Dosadh, etc.

The village is the headquarters of Sonhaula *Anchal* and the police thana bearing the same name (No. 435). The area of the village is 1,070 acres. The population of this village according to 1951 census was 768 (404 males and 364 females). The houses are mostly mud built. There are also some brick built houses.

The village has a number of educational institutions, namely, a Madrasa Sulemania School, a *Muktab* of middle standard, a girls' primary school and a high english school for boys. There is a Post Office, a State dispensary and a class I Veterinary hospital.

The main occupation of the people of the village is cultivation. The main crops are paddy, maize, Jowar and Bajra.

The village *hat* meets twice in the week on Monday and Fridays. There is a statutory Gram Panchayat in the village. There is an Executive Committee with a Mukhiya.

Suja Sikargarh.—There is a remnant of an old building situated on the south of Rajaun Police-Station. It is said that Shah Sujah used to stay here for hunting and this fact has given the name.

Sultanganj.—J. Byrne in the Old Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) mentions:—

"Village in Bhagalpur district, Bengal, situated close to the Ganges, near a railway station of the same name, in 25°15'N. and 86°45'E. Population (1901) 4,410. Sultanganj is conspicuous for two great rocks of granite, one of which on the river bank is crowned by a Musalman mosque. The second and larger one is occupied by a temple of Ghaibinath Siva, and is a place of great holiness in the eyes of Hindus, and few persons of position pass the place without making offerings to the idol. The river here impinges on a stone cliff and this is believed to be the scene of the loves of the river nymph and the god Siva. Close to the railway station are extensive remains of Buddhist monasteries, where a number of figures have been exhumed, and nearby is a fine old stupa. Served as it is by rail and river the town is a flourishing mart.

"The tradition runs that a devotee or Sanyasi named Harinath, who had forsaken the pleasures of the world, dwelt here at one time. He used, at vast trouble, to make pilgrimages to the shrine of Baidyanath, near Deogarh until, at length, the god informed him in a dream that he would have no further occasion to go so far, as on

his return to this island rock he would find an image there to which he might address his prayers. He found the promised idol awaiting him at Sultanganj, and founding a convent of devotees, he became its first *mahant* or abbot. This could not have occurred at a very remote period, as Digambar, the *mahant* in Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton's time, stated that he was the thirteenth who had enjoyed that dignity, to which no young man can hope to aspire. The place does not seem to have risen into great reputation until lately as Ananta, the *mahant* at the beginning of the last century, is said to have erected most of the buildings that now exist. Almost everyone who comes to bathe at Sultanganj visits the temple, and carries up a vessel of water to pour over the image. In order to render the ceremony more efficacious, some of the worshippers carry the water to summit of the spire and dash it from thence. The *mahant* acknowledges no *guru* or superior. In the rainy season the community have little communication with the main land, the stream at that season rushing past with great violence; but during the fair weather a large number of the neighbouring Hindus receive instruction there. Almost every Hindu of position who passes up or down the river in fair weather makes offering here."

Since Byrne wrote Sultanganj has had a lot of changes.

It is said that in ancient times Sultanganj being the abode of the sage Jahnu, was a very famous place. Being the *Ashram* of a sage, it must have been a popular seat of learning and students must have received learning and erudition under the able guidance of the learned sage.

The hill that contained the *Ashram* of Jahnu *Muni* is still existing in the mid stream of the Ganga and at present the famous *Shiva* temple of Ajgaivinath is situated on the very summit of it. The origin of the temple is shrouded in mystery. According to legend lord *Shiva* took here a bow known as Ajgav and so the place came to be known as Ajgaivinath. It is commonly said that Kalapahar failed to demolish Ajgaivinath temple but he could destroy the *Parvati* temple on the neighbouring hill and built a mosque there. Formerly, this hill must have been bigger and spacious. The high floods and the constant strong currents of the Ganga must have worn away the decaying granite rocks of the hill. The present village Jahangira to the west of Sultanganj still keeps alive the memory of the *Ashram* of Jahnu *Muni*. The name of Jahangira appears to be the distorted form of Jahnugiri (the hill of Jahnu) or Jahnu *griha* (the abode of Jahnu)*

*In Heber's Journal, Vol. I, there is a pencil sketch of the temple and the mosque on the rocks under the caption of Jahangira. Bishop Heber's Journal, Vol. I (pp. 199—215) has ample references to Bouglipore (Bhagalpur). His visits were in 1824-25 (P.C.R.C.).

In ancient times Sultanganj formed part of the well-known Anga State. In the days of the *Mahabharata*, Karna, the sixth brother of the five *Pandavas* ruled in Anga. The capital of the State was Champa the present Chamapanagar situated at a distance of three miles to the west of Bhagalpur. King Karna had his castles at Champa (modern Champanagar) and Jahnugiri (modern Sultanganj). The two elevated mounds at Nathnagar close to Champanagar and Sultanganj called Karnagarh at both the places remind of the site of Karna's castles. Very recently Karnagarh area of Sultanganj has been turned into Krishnagarh as Kumar Krishnanand Singh of Banaili has constructed an attractive building over this site.

Secondly during the rule of Pala and Sena Kings (from 730 A.D. to 1199 A.D.) Sultanganj rose to prominence and Dharmapala the first king of the Pala Dynasty is said to have laid the foundation of the Vikramshila University at Sultanganj. This claim is, however, not substantiated.

During the rule of the Mauryas, Guptas and Palas many works of art and architecture were raised at Sultanganj. The area has yielded ancient relics like *stupas*, seals, coins, terracotta and Hindu and Buddha images. Many carvings can still be seen in the Sultanganj hills. A number of small images along with a copper image of Lord Buddha about seven feet high were excavated here. A Buddha image found in Sultanganj is now in Birmingham Museum.

Dr. A. L. Basham, in his book, "The Wonder that was India" mentions in connection with the Sultanganj Buddha as follows:—

> "The use of bronze images in worhsip seems to have been specially prevalent among Buddhists. The Sultanganj Buddha was found in Bihar, one of the great centres of Buddhism, where one of the two great medieval schools of metal sculpture arose, under the patronage of the Pala kings. Pala bronzes are so numerous that there is no doubt that they were mass-produced. They were exported to South-East Asia, where they are still found, and to Nepal and Tibet, where they provided prototypes for indigenous schools. These images are characterized chiefly by delicacy of design and ornamental detail, and deep religious inspiration is usually lacking. The earliest Nepal bronzes, which go back to our period, are less ornate in design, but are gilded and set with semi-precious stones, and give an impression of great brilliance and smoothness."

A large number of antiquities discovered from Krishnagarh at Sultanganj have been preserved in Patna Museum. They indicate a very high standard of Hindu religiosity and culture. The fact that some of the images and other antiquities are Buddhistic

reiterates that the area was very important from Buddhistic point of view as well. Most of the antiquities have been identified with the medieval period. Some important antiquities of Sultanganj in Patna Museum are:—

(1) Mukhalyyam, height 9½" of black stone with face of a male.

(2) Buddha in *Bhumisparsa Mudra*, height 8" broken, inscribed, in black stone.

(3) Buddha in a preaching pose seated on a lotus upheld by a *nag*, broken height 9"×6" in black stone inscribed.

(4) Black-stone torso of a dancing figure height 8½"×7".

(5) Black-stone torso of a seated preaching Buddha figure height 4"×2".

(6) One black-stone *mukhalinga* height 1"×1".

(7) Upper half of a black stone *prabha torana* of a Buddhist image arch consists of three decorated bands of floral decorations. Centre of the arch is occupied by a *kriti mukha* flanked by two flying *Gandharvas* and two panels containing *Bodhisatva* figures. In the corner is a temple with a mutilated *Bodhisatva* figure, measurement 1'6½"×1'5"×5¾".

(8) Torso of a black stone figure of *Bodhisatva* with seated Buddha figure height 2'7"×1'4½".

(9) Head of a stone figure of *Bhairab* height 1'3"×11".

A number of old gold ornaments and coins found in Sultanganj have also been preserved in Patna Museum.

The present Murli hill of Sultanganj situated just on the bank of Ganga contains a Gupta inscription along with several Hindu and Buddha images. This hill has got a mosque at its summit said to have been erected by Bakhtiayar Khilji's son Ikhtiyar Muhammad Khilji, the destroyer of Nalanda and Vikramsila, towards the close of the twelfth century A.D. Most of the images carved in the aforesaid Murli hill are said to have been disfigured by Kalapahar, the chief assistant and military commander of Daud Khan, the ruler of Bengal, who revolted against Akbar in 1573 and continued his resistance till his defeat and death by the imperial forces near Rajmahal in 1576.

Through various vicissitudes Sultanganj continued in importance in the later centuries. It is peculiar that a place which has the famous *Shiva* temple known as Ajgaivinath which is quite old should have a name which has a clear muslim impress. It is all the more so when it is remembered that Ajgaivinath temple is one of the three famous *Shiva* temples in Bihar, the two other being Bashukinath and Baidyanath temples in Santhal Parganas. Even now Hindu devotees are seen footing the road and cover these three

temples for the worship of Lord *Shiva*. The riverine location of Sultanganj added to its importance. Sultanganj has the advantage of Monghyr on one side and Bhagalpur on the other and continued to be an important centre for river-borne trade. Large cargo boats loaded with merchandise used to anchor at Sultanganj. In recent times river steamers had Sultanganj as an important halting station. In the early part of British administration European merchants, writers and British soldiers used to be prescribed river cruises by the doctors for convalescence. We have records of such convalescence cruises coming to Colgong, Sultanganj and Monghyr. Governor's wives and other European ladies who could afford used to come down to these places by boat. Even when European indigo planters thrived there used to be *kothis* in this area. Sultanganj does not appear to have had a decline.

According to the census of 1951, Sultanganj had a population of 4,212 (2,244 males and 1,968 females). According to 1961 census the population is 11,823 (6,157 males and 5,648 females). Out of this population 3,450 are literates (2,652 males and 798 females).

According to the previous Census rules a town was a place with a Municipality, Notified Area Committee or Cantonment or a place which has been declared to be a town. A town according to 1961 census is any place with a population of more than 5,000 persons, with density of more than 1,000 persons per square mile and if at least 75 per cent of adult male population is engaged in non-agricultural occupations.

The town now has a cosmopolitan population consisting of various Hindu and Muslim communities. The business community is more prominent. The Marwaris, Agarwals and the Gwalas form the majority in the town. The number of Rajputs, Bhumihars and Kayasthas is negligible. The population of Kahar, Dusadh, etc., find ample occupations either in the agricultural fields or in the mills. There is also a good percentage of landless labourers and cultivators with land. Sultanganj has quite a few flourishing business houses.

Sultanganj is noted for its trade and commerce in rice, pulse, oil, cloth and other foodgrains. There are a number of big mills and *golas* out of which two are quite important namely, Shiva Parwati Mill and Suraj Oil Mill. There are more than twenty large grain *golas*.

There are a large number of temples, *thakurbaris* and *dharmshalas*. It has got three charitable hospitals and dispensaries. There is a Homoeopathic dispensary and a Veterinary hospital as well.

Sultanganj has got a police-station, a sub-post office, a telegraph and telephone connections, a branch of State Bank of India, other banks, an inspection bungalow and a number of Government offices. It is the headquarters of a Block Development Officer. There are two public libraries, dramatic clubs, a sport's association, a *pucca* stage and a cinema house. The local Murarka family has sponsored a number of philanthropic and educational institutions. There are a number of primary schools for both boys and girls, one High English School, one Government Sanskrit High School and one Degree College known as Murarka College.

The local affairs were at first under the Union Board which has been recently substituted by a Notified Area Committee. The town is fast becoming congested and a Notified Area Committee may not be able to cope with the requirements. The large number of pilgrims visiting the town annually, the business interests, the expansion of educational facilities, railway and road communications, etc., are bound to bring in a very rapid expansion and development of the town.

The Inspection Bungalow is located by the side of the river Ganga and commands an excellent view. Sultanganj has possibilities of being developed as a tourist centre. At present there is difficulty of getting casual accommodation. A youth hostel or a cheap tourist's dormitory will be useful to develop this place.

Tarar.—A village in sadar subdivision, 3 miles south of Ghogha railway station and connected with it by a metalled road.

The area of the village is 916 acres. The population of this village according to 1951 census is 2,283 (1,150 males and 1,133 females).

The village has a Post Office, three Primary Schools, a High School established in 1938. The incidence of education is high. At present (1961) there are about 70 matriculates, 5 I.As., 10 B.As. and 8 M.As. in the village and about 100 persons are service-holders. There is a District Board dispensary and a Veterinary Sub-centre hospital.

There are three libraries in the village, namely, *Shanti Pustakalaya*, established in 1952 which contains about 600 books, *Ravindra Samitee Pustakalaya*, established in 1945 and *Jugantar Pustakalaya*, established in 1940 which contains about 350 books.

A big irrigation scheme, Sonhaula Tarar Canal was constructed in 1953 and this irrigates a very large area of several villages. A *Hat* is held two days, *i.e.*, Wednesdays and Sundays in the week.

There is a statutory Gram Panchayat in the village.

Tilakpur.—It is said that the village Tilakpur owes its name to the fact that previously the villagers professed *Vishnu Dharma* and applied *tilak* on their fore-heads and hence the village began to be called Tilakpur.

The village is in Sultanganj P.-S. in the Sadar subdivision of Bhagalpur district. It is served by the Maheshi Halt on the Eastern Railway, but as most of the trains running on this line do not stop at this halt the villagers have to use Sultanganj Railway station at a distance of about 4 miles from the village. This village is situated on a district board road at a distance of nearly half a mile from the main P. W. D. road from Bhagalpur. People generally utilise bus services for their short journeys to Bhagalpur and Sultanganj. The distance of the village by road from Bhagalpur Railway station by road is about 13 miles.

The area of the village is 2,636 acres and is bounded on the north by the river Ganga, on the south by village Rashidpur, on the east by village Maheshi Rabichak and on the west by village Nausopur.

A comparative statement of population of this village as enumerated in the censuses of 1951 and 1961 is given below :—

—	1951.	1961.
Number of occupied houses	311	283
Male population	1,141	1,219
Female population	1,072	1,219
TOTAL—POPULATION ..	2,213	2,438
Male literate	201	438
Female literate	7	202
TOTAL—LITERATE ..	208	640

One thing noticeable about the number of occupied houses is that even though the number of occupied houses in the village increased by 28, still 30 families had to shift from the village to the neighbouring village of Nausopur, evidently due to paucity of land for house construction in Tilakpur. It is probably due to this migration of people from this village increase in population is negligible. There has been an increase in the figures for male literacy by a little more than 100 per cent. There has been a tremendous increase in female literacy. The increase in female literacy is due to the fact that besides the U. P. Girls' School and Girls' Teachers Training School with its practising schools there is co-education in Middle School and High School in the village. The number of institutions is as follows :—

Middle School—1, Girls U. P. School—1, Girls' Teachers Training School with the attached practising school—1, High School—1, and one Library. The special feature of the Middle school is that a museum is attached to it for the study of specimens by the students.

The population of the village consists of caste Hindus, Harijans and Muslims.

The soil of the village is sandy and alluvial and produces maize, wheat and paddy.

The population consists mainly of cultivators. The rest are landless labourers who till land on *batai* (share-cropping) and also work as labourers in Jamalpur Railway Workshop.

The village has an Extra Departmental Post Office. It has a Co-operative Society also called Tilakpur Multi-purpose Co-operative Society.

The village has a building named *Gandhi Ghar* established by *Gandhi Smarak Nidhi*. It is a *pucca* building consisting of four rooms, one hall and two verandahs. The *Gandhi Ghar* has popularised *Charkha* (spinning wheel). It distributes cotton to the villagers and purchases yarn from the spinners once a week. This gives employment to the women folk who thus become earning members of the family.

There is one artificial insemination centre.

The village took a great share in 1942 Movement through Shri Sia Ram Singh of this village. He took a prominent part leading a party organised by him during the "Quit India Movement" of 1942.

The village has got no medical facility and no market in the village. The inhabitants have to travel for medical aid to Sultanganj at a distance of about four miles. The village is provided with electricity for domestic purposes.

There are two *Thakurbaris,* two temples and a *Durga Asthan* in the village. On the occasion of *Ram Navami* in the month of *Chait* a *mela* is held in the village every year.

The village has a *Gram Panchayat* also. The *Panchayat* office has no building of its own and is held in the library building.

Vikramsila.—The University of Vikramsila was founded by King Dharmapala in the latter part of the 8th century A.D. It was situated on a hill on the right bank of river Ganga. Regarding the exact identification of this place, there are different views. Some identify it with Sultanganj in Bhagalpur district; according to other views it is identified with Silao, near Baragaon in Patna district; or with Pathargahtta hills in Bhagalpur district, or with Keur near Hulasgunj and in line with Nalanda. But the villages in the neighbourhood of Patharghatta hills Oriup, Antichak, Nawada etc., in the district of Bhagalpur yield valuable finds and they rather indicate that this was the area where Vikramasila Univeristy was located. A local non-official committee has done some pioneering work and a systematic exploration by the Archaeological department is now necessary. Recently, the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture of Patna University has carried out certain excavations at village Antichak with a view to determine the ancient site of Vikramasila University. The excavations were done in 1960 and 1961 and have disclosed different periods of habitation. The natural structures exposed and the antiquities discovered reiterate that the site was probably the remains of a large monastery. A number of Buddha images of stone and terracottas have been discovered. Some inscribed seals and *stupas* have also been found.

King Dharamapala who founded the University had generously endowed it with his munificent grants. The University buildings

made provision for the maintenance of 108 residential professors and also for a number of non-residential professors, pilgrims and other members of the staff. A big *vihara* (monastery) was constructed in the University quarters, and it was protected by strong walls. In the centre there was a big Buddhist temple, surrounded by 108 smaller temples. The affairs of the University were entrusted by King Dharamapala to one very eminent and learned scholar who was also highly religious. The controlling authority which administered the affairs of the Vikramasila University also looked after the Nalanda University near Patna.

It is said that on the walls of the University buildings there were painted images of learned *pandits* some of whom were the products of the University and some were professors. Six Colleges were affiliated to this University, and each of them had a staff of 108 professors. The central hall of the University had six gates. Each of these gates was guarded by scholars who were known as gate-keepers. Distinguished scholars of the Vikramasila University went to foreign countries, particularly to Tibet where they were respectfully invited to give the benefit of their learning and scholarship.

Buddha Jnana Pada, the first President or Chancellor of the University developed the study of *Mantra* and *Vajrayna* and his works which are lost in Sanskrit are yet preserved in the Tibetan languages. His specialised subject is said to have been taught in this University only. Among the other subjects that were taught in this University were Grammar, Metaphysics, Logic and Rituals.

There were several learned scholars in this University. They were Kamalakulisa, Narendra Srijuana, Dana Rakshita, Abhayan Kara Gupta, Subha Kara Gupta, Sunaya Kasri, Dharama Kara Santi and Sakhyasri Pandit.

Even though the account of the Vikramasila University is not available in the same manner and with the same details as we have of the Universities of Nalanda and Valabhi, we are in a position to collect sufficient information from the Tibetan accounts and the biographies of Vikramasila scholars who had gone to Tibet and spread the message of Buddha. Vikramasila University, according to the account of *Tabakat-i-Nasari*, was completely destroyed. It is believed that it was destroyed by the Muhammadan invader, Bhakhtiyar Khilji, in about 1202 A.D. At that time, Sakhyasri Pandita of Kashmir was its Chancellor. He had subsequently gone to Tibet.

Vikramasila University after flourishing for a period of 400 years fell to the fury of an invader and was completely destroyed.

This description of Vikramsila University is given here in case the site is identified with Patharghatta hill area for which there appears to be cogent reasons.*

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*A list of some books on Bhagalpur district available in National Library, Calcutta is as follows:—

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CHAPTER XVII

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

History of Land Revenue Administration and Settlement

The history of Land Revenue Administration and Settlement in the District of Bhagalpur may be divided into the following periods :—

(1) The Muhammadan Period—1582—1765.

(2) The Early British Period—1765—1790.

(3) The years of the Decennial Settlement.

(4) The Permanent Settlement and its effects.

(5) The Resumption Period.

(6) The Revenue Survey—1842—1847.

(7) The Modern Period.

The Muhammadan Period—1582—1765

In the beginning of the 13th century, Bhagalpur formed a part of *Sarkar* Monghyr, the later forming one of the 7 administrative units in which Subah Bihar was divided. In the third quarter of the next century Bihar was included in Bengal and it formed an independent kingdom under Fakhruddin and his descendants with some interruption till 1576, when it was annexed by the Mughals. From the time of this conquest till 1605, the seat of the Mughal Governor of Bengal was at Tanda (in North Bengal) and later at Rajmahal. During the period 1605—1707, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa formed a single governorship; there was a Deputy (Naib) to control Bihar. The seat of the Governor was transferred from Rajmahal to Dacca, but later re-transferred to Rajmahal by Shuja (1639—1660); after 1703 the seat of the Naib was taken to Patna.

Under the Mughals, the Governor of a province was styled *Sipah Salar*, subsequently called Subedar and commonly known as Naib Nazim or Great Deputy Governor. Up to 1697, there was one Nawab for Bihar and one each for Bengal and Orissa. In 1576 the Office of the Diwan was created and placed in charge of revenue matter. Up to 1703 the Nazim controlled the general administration and the Diwan, financial affairs, but in 1704 Murshid Quli Khan was appointed Naib-i-Nazim of Bengal and Orissa in addition to his post to Diwan of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, while Syed Hussain Ali was appointed Naib-i-Nazim of Bihar. Murshid

Quli Khan transferred the seat of Governor from Dacca to Murshidabad. The place bears its name from him. Murshid Quli Khan was succeeded one after another by Sujauddin, Sarfaraz Khan, Alivardi Khan, Siraj-ud-Doulah, Mir Zafar and Mir Quasim. The British supremacy over Bengal was established after the battle of Buxar in 1764. On August 12, 1765, the Mughal Emperor appointed the Company the Diwan of the Province of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and it was from that date the actual British revenue administration originated.

First Mughal Settlement

In 1582 Raja Todarmal made the revenue settlement in *Subah* Bihar. The Raja's assessment was generally based on the principles and methods adopted by Sher Shah (1540—1545), the Afghan ruler of Bihar. The settlement was made for a period of 10 years (though it continued for 76 years), the share of the estate was fixed, and a uniform standard of measurement was introduced. The *Subas* were divided into administrative divisions, called *Sarkars* and the latter divided into fiscal Units, called *Parganas* and left under the care of Choudharys or *Zamindars*, who were entrusted with administrative duties and the collection of revenue.

The Ain-i-Akbari compiled during the reign of the Emperor Akbar, records the amount of assessment in *Sarkar* Monghyr at Rs. 7,41,000 and in *Pargana* Bhagalpur at 46,96,110 *dams* or Rs. 1,17,403. Bhagalpur was one of the 22 *Parganas* into which *Sarkar* Monghyr was divided, and it bore the largest proportion of the total revenue of the *Sarkar* on account of its being in a more prosperous and settled state.

Second and subsequent Mughal Settlements

Revisions in revenue assessment were made in 1658 by Prince Shuja, in 1685 (under the reign of Aurangzeb), in 1722 by Murshid Quli Khan, and in 1750 under orders of Alivardi Khan. The subsequent revisions were made in 1760-61 and in 1765. In the former year it was done under the orders of Mir Quasim, the puppet set up by Clive after Plassey (according to Shore's Minute of 18th June 1789, Quasim's assessment was never collected), and in the latter year by Md. Reja Khan, who was appointed Deputy Nazim under Najam-Ud-Din, the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, by the Company, and later made Naib Diwan under them.

The Settlement of 1658 made by Prince Shuja resulted in the increase of the previous revenue by about 25 per cent and Murshid Quli's settlement not only led to a further increase but also to the creation of a new administrative division called *Chakla* in place of *Sarkar*, which remained as an administrative unit till the commencement of British rule and formed the basis of subsequent redistribution into districts. The details of the revenue revisions of 1685 and 1750, are not known. But the principles of Reja Khan's

assessment is known. The gross receipts of the *Zamindars* were first determined, then the deduction was made for the expenses of the management, and the balance was declared to be the revenue payable to the State by *Zamindars*.

The Early British Period—1765—1790

The grant of the Diwani to the Company may be said to be the starting point of British revenue administration. For more than a quarter of a century (1765—1793) the revenue administration was in a "nebulous stage". The period from 1765—1773 has been aptly called "the period of hesitation", which produced unsatisfactory and irregular state of collection, and that from 1773 to 1781 a "period of centralisation".

The revenue collection which was entirely in the hands of Md. Reja Khan was controlled by Supervisors appointed in 1769 and acting under the control of 2 Councils of Revenue established at Patna and Murshidabad since 1770. The year 1770 was the last year of Indian management. In 1772 the quinquennial settlement was made, the post of the Naib Diwan was abolished and European revenue collector was appointed. But a year later the post of collector was abolished and the Controlling Committee and the Provincial Council of Revenue created. The Register of Hoshiyar Jang for the year 1773 contains an account of revenue demand made for 1765. The period from 1773—1781, called a "period of centralisation", was marked by the reappointment of collectors and the dissolution of the Controlling Committee and the Provincial Council of Revenue. In the years 1778, 1779 and 1780 annual settlements were made.

The "centralisation" which began with 1773 was completed by year 1786, and then began decentralisation which continued till 1798. In 1789 and 1790 regulations were issued for making a decennial settlement in Bihar and Bengal respectively. The Permanent Settlement began in March, 1793.

Condition of Pargana Bhagalpur from 1765—1772

At the time of the conferment of the Diwani on the Company, Bhagalpur consisted of eight *parganas*, besides the estate known as Mahalat Kharagpur composed of 20 *parganas* and belonging to the Raja of Kharagpur. From 1765—1772, the names of *parganas* Bhagalpur, Colgong and Chhai do not find mention in the rent roll of *Subah* Bihar. They had been transferred to *Subah* Bengal under the false claim that they constituted a Jagir in favour of Nizam-Ud-Dulah, son of Mir Jafar. William Harwood, the first Supervisor with headquarters at Rajmahal, held charge of the area, that was divided into two parts, Bengal and Bihar. Bihar included Pargana Bhagalpur. From old records maintained in the revenue office at Murshidabad it appears that, the original crown rent of 40 estates included in the jurisdiction of the first

English Collector, Bhagalpur was Rs. 8,98,950. The collection of revenue was made through the zamindars whose operations were supervised by Kanungoes.

The Kanungo System

The Kanungo played an important role in the development of early British revenue administration. The Chief *Kanungoe* were those of Bhagalpur, Colgong and Kharagpur. The *Kanungoship* of Bhagalpur and of a portion of Colgong was conferred by Hussain Shah, the king of Bengal, upon Sri Ram Ghosh, and it remained in hereditary succession for about 200 years in the family of Sri Ram. Sri Ram came from Murshidabad and settled in Bhagalpur in the reign of Shah Jahan. The *Kanungoship* of Colgong was conferred upon a Hindu renegade on the third year of the reign of Alamgir. The first Muhammadan Raja of Kharagpur, Todar Mall, who took the name of Raja Afjun, obtained his title from Emperor Jahangir, in 1615. He was also appointed Kanungo of *Mahalat* Kharagpur by the Mughal Emperor. When the *Kanungoship* was abolished in 1787, special pensions were granted to the incumbents.

Ghatwali tenures

Some land in *pargaans* Bhagalpur and Kharagpur was held by *Ghatwals* whose duty was to protect the district from the incursions of the hill tribes of Ramgarh and the western portion of the Santal country. The prominent *Ghatwals* were those of Lachhmipur, Kakwara and Kharwar all subordinate to the Raja of Kharagpur; they paid the Raja a *resum* of two annas per bigha on the area of cultivated lands included in their tenures. But, after all, this system failed to produce the desired object. The *Ghatwals* asserted their independence, assumed leadership of marauding hill tribes and created disorder. At length, the refractory *Ghatwals* were brought under subjection and the *Ghatwali* of Lachhmipur was separated from Kharagpur and formed into a distinct estate. In 1836, the Government resumed the land of the *Ghatwals*. This institution has been dealt with in details later.

Grant of Jagir to invalid soldiers

The *Ghatwals* proving themselves inefficient in keeping down the hill tribals, Cleveland, who assumed the Collectorship of Bhagalpur in 1779, adopted several measures for the pacification of the hill tribals, the chief being that of settling down the invalid soldiers of the company on the waste lands between the hill country and Bhagalpur. Under orders of the Governor-General and Council of Revenue, the *Jagir* system (i.e., grant of land free of a revenue or the assignment of revenue of lands for the maintenance of some particular person or establishment) was introduced, for which lands were taken away from the *zamindars* without giving them any compensation and given to invalid soldiers.

In 1782 instructions were issued to the Collector of Bhagalpur to distribute lands to the native officers and sepoys each according to their rank. Thus, a Commandant was to receive 300 *bighas*, a Subedar 200, a Jamadar 100 and so on. On the death of the original grantee his family was permitted a perpetual grant of the lands at a moderate fixed rent. At first, such lands were granted on the south of the Ganga, but later they were granted on the north of the river as well, and this system was, in course of time, extended along the Ganga to the other districts. This *jagir* system was, after all, and for various reasons, put a stop to by Regulation 2 of 1821.

The Decennial Settlement

At the time of the Decennial Settlement information regarding the assessment of each estate was secured through *Kanungos* of the district. The Collector of Bhagalpur, however, faced difficulties in making proper assessment of revenue, on account of the insecure state of the country and the *zamindars* refusing to accept the responsibility of paying the revenue that was much lower than the previous revenue, with the result that, there had been a great disproportion between the assessment of revenue in Bhagalpur and those of other districts. For instance the revenue that was realised in 1765 from the forty estates of Bhagalpur figured Rs. 8,98,950. In 1772, the revenue assessed from Bhagalpur and 2 other parganas was Rs. 5,28,580 but in 1799, the revenue was as low as Rs. 3,09,730.

Permanent Settlement, 1793

In 1793, Permanent Settlement was made with the principal *zamindars* of each *pargana*. At that time there were only 40 estates in the district and 10 per cent of the asset of each estate after deducting the cost of collections was left to the *zamindars*. But the majority of the estates were permanently settled long after 1793. This institution has been referred to later.

The Resumption proceedings

The word "Resumption" is a technical term that was being used in revenue administration to denote either the assessment to revenue of lands, etc., which hitherto had been exempted from the payment of revenue, or the transfer of revenue devoted to the same special object to the general exchequer. Enquiries were instituted after 1793 and it continued till 1850, to see how far the claims made at time of the Permanent Settlement to hold lands without payment of revenue were valid. As a result, up to 1840 about 181 estates were resumed, resulting in the increase of revenue from Rs. 3,10,000 in 1800 to Rs. 5,80,000 in 1860 and Rs. 7,21,600 in 1872.

The Revenue Survey

The revenue survey of Bhagalpur district took place between 1846 and 1850. Maps were prepared showing geographical details

and village boundaries. Sherwill and Pemberton were incharge of the operations in north and south Bhagalpur respectively. At the time of this survey the area of the district was 7,801 square miles and it contained 20 *parganas* of which 4 were in the north and the rest were in the south. Soon afterwards the number of *parganas* increased to 23 of which 10 and 13 were situated in north and south respectively.

The Modern Period

The aforesaid surveys were followed by the Ganges Diara survey that took place in 1865-66 and led to assessments of lands which had been added by alluvion to the permanently settled estates touching on the river under Act IX of 1847. Again, the Survey and Settlement (Traverse Survey) of north Bhagalpur began in 1901-02, and the Cadastral Survey and the Khanapuri Survey of south Bhagalpur took place in the season of 1905-06 and 1906-07. The total area of the district in 1901 was 4,158 square miles.

Other Surveys and Settlements were made in 1910-11, 1920-21, 1930-31, 1940-41 and 1950-51.

Classification of Estates

Till the *zamindari* abolition in 1950 the estates fell under 3 heads, namely, permanent settled estates, temporary settled estates and estates held by Government. The following table gives the number of these estates and their annual revenue collections as per years noted against each :--

Years.	Total number of estates.	Amount of collection.	Permanent estates.	Collection.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.		Rs.
1911-12	4,800	6,03,411	4,780	5,68,416
1920-21	4,947	6,17,022	4,924	5,68,840
1930-31	5,060	6,09,694	5,040	5,67,186
1940-41	5,186	6,06,131	5,163	5,68,149
1950-51	5,247	6,00,180	5,225	5,73,738

Years.	Temporary estates.	Collection.	Estates held by Government.	Collection.
1	6	7	8	9
		Rs.		Rs.
1911-12	6	1,573	14	33,422
1920-21	6	2,511	17	45,671
1930-31	10	4,286	10	38,222
1940-41	9	1,166	13	36,816
1950-51	8	92	14	26,350

Land Revenue Structure

The history of Bhagalpur has been dealt with elsewhere. In ancient period *Anga*, one of the sixteen *Janapadas* of the country included the modern districts of Bhagalpur and Monghyr. During this period the *bhaga* or land revenue was fixed at 1/6th part of the total produce and went to the ruling chief or administration. Bhagalpur grant of the Pala period gives some ideas of the prevailing land revenue system in this part of the country during ninth and tenth centuries of the Christian era. *Udranga* was the chief tax on land, viz., 1/6th of its produce, and *Uparikara* was a minor tax. *Bhaga* was often substituted for *Udranga* and *Hiranaya* means probably taxes paid in cash and levied on profits of trade, etc., at 1/50th. The above mentioned grant mentioned the *inam* villages which were free from taxation and were not to be entered into by police-men and soldiers.*

When the Muhammadans were ruling the same area, the land revenue taken was 1/4th or even 1/3rd of the total produce besides *abwabs* or illegal exaction above the fixed rental. At this time Bhagalpur formed part of *Sarkar* Monghyr one of the seven *Sarkars* into which Bihar was divided during the time of Akbar.**

The area of *Sarkar* Monghyr of which Bhagalpur formed a component part did undergo changes on a number of occasions and the area of the unit that was known as Bhagalpur also underwent changes. That is why it is now almost impossible to ascertain exactly what was the assessment by the way of land revenue on the particular unit of Bhagalpur at the time of Todar Mall's settlement of 1582. *Sarkar* Monghyr in Suba Bihar is shown in the *Ain-i-Akbari* as assessed at about Rs. 7,41,000. Some information as to the revenue paid for certain areas at various times is, however, available. The *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions the following parganas and the revenue assessed on them by Akbar in the last Settlement Report.†

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*C.V. Vaidya, *History of Mediaeval Hindu India*, Volume II, p. 234.

**The Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the Bhagalpur District (1902—1910) at page 12 had mentioned that "Originally Bhagalpur formed part of *Sarkar* Monghyr, one of the seven *Sarkars* into which Bihar was divided at the time of Muhammadan conquest in 1202 A. D." This appears to be confusing and probably wrong. The unit of *Sarkar* is a much later creation and did not exist when the Muslims overran the area. The term '*Sarkar*' as a unit in the administration appears to have been used in the time of Sher Shah (1540—45 A. D.).

†*Survey and Settlement Reports of the District* (1902—1910), p. 13.

Pargana	Revenue in dams
Molhani Gopal	151
Dharampur	40,00,000
Kahkhand	2,43,677
Uttarkhand	1,28,412
Chhai	9,28,000
Nisankhpur Kurha	9,728
Bhagalpur	46,96,110
Colgong	28,00,000
Stahiari	58,730
Jahangira	..
Lakhanpur	6,33,280
Kherhi	6,89,044
Sahroi	17,73,000
Danra Sakhwara	1,36,000
Hazar Taki	9,182
Chandwe	3,60,000
Wasila	89,760
Chandan Katoria	
Dhapahar	
Nathpur	..
Harawat	
Naredigar	

From the above it appears that the *parganas* Jahangira, Chandan Katoria, Dhapahar, Nathpur, Harawat and Naredigar had been then left unassessed. The reasons are not clear. It may be that some portions like Katoria were full of jungles and more or less uninhabitated and hence the tract was not assessed. But this cannot be the case with Jahangira Pargana which is close to the Ganga river and must have been inhabited and fertile.

Since *dam* was then equivalent to one-fortieth of a rupee the total revenue of *parganas* comprising the old Bhagalpur district comes to about 4 lakh rupees. The *parganawise* figure indicates that some *parganas* like Malhani Gopal and Nisanakpur Kurha were very lightly assessed as very little of areas of them had been brought under cultivation in Akbar's time. Bhagalpur, Colgong and Chhai seem to be very extensively cultivated and supplied a

large proportion of the total revenue of the district. They seemed to have been more settled and prosperous than the other *parganas*.

In subsequent assessments their revenue seems to have been increased, for in 1765 they paid five and quarter lakhs of rupees as revenue, or more than twice the amount of Akbar's assessment. But for seven years, i.e., from 1765 to 1772 their revenue had been embezzled due to fraud.* Similar embezzlement had also been made by the *zamindars* in the hilly parts of the Banka subdivision who enjoyed semi-independence and seldom paid any revenue at all. It appears that on the eve of the establishment of the British supremacy chaotic condition prevailed in the revenue matter of the district. In consequence of the embezzlements which followed the Permanent Settlement, the land revenue in 1799 amounted to only 3.10 lakhs; and owing to the backward condition of the district at the time of settlement and to the imperfect assessments originally made, the incidence of land revenue was extraordinarily low, amounting for the whole district to Re. 0-4-6 per cultivated acre and to less than 11 per cent of the rental.**

About 1722 Murshid Quli Khan, revised the whole assessment of Bengal, but it is impossible to find out the exact proportion of the enhancement that was levied in Bhagalpur district. However, from old records of the Murshidabad Diwani office it appears that the as *asljama tumari* or original crown rent of the forty estates, included in the area which formed the jurisdiction of the first English Collector at Bhagalpur, was Rs. 8,98,950. In 1765, when the Company assumed the administration, this constituted the re-organized assessment of which Rs. 90,950 had been alienated in grants of rent-free lands, *nankar* estates, and other charges connected with the collection. The system of collection followed was then, as now, carried out through the *zamindars*; but as they had not then been recognized as actual proprietors, their operations were supervised by Government officers called *kanungos*, one of whom was attached to each large estate, or to two or three minor ones.†

Ghatwali tenures.—This system was widely prevalent in Chotanagpur but had to be enforced in Bhagalpur district to protect the tract from the incursions of the Santhal tribes. *Ghatwal* or *Ghatwar* meant the guard who watches the *ghats* or mountain passes and assures unmolested travel through them. The *ghatwali* lands were granted for the maintenance of the *ghatwals* who were given the

**Survey and Settlement Reports* (1902—1910), p. 13.

***Imperial Gazetteer of India, Provincial Series, Bengal*, Volume II, Calcutta, 1909, p. 172.

†*District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1911), p. 135.

status of police for protecting the low country from incursions and depredations which in former days were a common feature. The tenures almost became hereditary. But in the course of the time when regular police was introduced the post of *ghatwals* became almost sinecure. In 1780 in consequence of conciliatory offers held out to them by Captain Brown and Mr. Cleveland, the Collector of the district, the several *ghatwals* and their establishment were prevailed upon to return to their *jagir* and resume their former duties. By this settlement the *ghatwals* were removed from the control of the *zamindars*, and having *sanads* granted on the part of Government, they became subordinate to Government only. The conditions of these *sanads* were that the *ghatwals* were to hold the lands at a consolidated *jama*, in consideration of which they were required to maintain the police as detailed by Government and that on failure of this service, or if any disturbance should occur in their jurisdiction they were made liable to forfeit the tenure.*

The *ghatwali* system proved totally a failure. The system failed altogether to provide the militia which Captain Brown expected would keep the country safe from the attack of the hillmen. The system fell into disuse after the enforcement of the Decennial Settlement and Permanent Settlement. In 1836 Government finding that the services of the *ghatwals* were no longer required attempted to resume their lands under Regulation I of 1793.

Decennial and Permanent Settlement.—"Considerable difficulty seems to have been experienced by the Collector when making the Decennial Settlement. This was probably due to the unsettled state of the district at the time, which made the *zamindars* disinclined to accept responsibility for the payment of the revenue fixed. The amount of revenue assessed was extraordinarily low in comparison with that assessed in previous settlements, and at the present day the disproportion between the assets of the estates and the revenue is greater in Bhagalpur than in any other district in Bihar. The revenue in 1799, a few years after the Permanent Settlement, was Rs. 3,09,730, whereas the revenue of three *parganas* alone, Chhai, Colgong and Bhagalpur, had in 1772 amounted to Rs. 5,28,580. The contrast with earlier settlements is even greater, for in 1765 the *asal jama* of the district which then contained forty estates was Rs. 8,98,950.

"In making the Decennial Settlement the Collector appears to have relied chiefly on the *Kanungos* of the district for information as to the assets of the different estates, and this no doubt accounts to some extent for the above result. The chief *Kanungos* were the *Kanungos* of Bhagalpur, Colgong and of Kharagpur. The first Muhammadan Raja of Kharagpur, Todal Mall, who took the

Survey and Settlement Report (1902—1910), p. 14.

name of Raja Afjun, received his title from the Emperor Jahangir in 1615. He was at the same time made *Kanungo* of *Mahlat* Kharagpur and given the right of collecting *rasum* in that property. At various intervals the Rajas of Kharagpur asserted and tried to enforce by arms a claim to the *Kanungoship* of Bhagalpur, which was held by the descendants of one Shri Ram Ghosh, who came from Murshidabad and settled in Bhagalpur in the reign of Shah-Jehan. Shri Ram's father-in-law was *Kanungo*, and the post became hereditary and remained in the family down to the time of the Permanent Settlement."*

The Permanent Settlement of 1793 did not affect the majority of the estates in the district. The great majority of the estates were, as the list shows, permanently settled long after 1793.**

Year of Settlement.	Number of estates.		Revenue.
	Original.	Batwara.	
			Rs.
Up to 1793	29	65	38,129
1794 to 1799	83	83	74,912
1800 to 1808	159	248	1,14,557
1809 to 1820	129	25	1,36,480
1821 to 1830	13	..	4,689
1831 to 1853	196	195	41,534
Total ..	609	616	4,10,301

The Revenue Survey of 1846 to 1850 and the subsequent legal proceedings for resumption and assessment to revenue of lands which had so far escaped assessment or were not validly exempted from assessment resulted in an increase of revenue to Rs. 5,80,000 in 1860. In 1872 the revenue demand was Rs. 7,21,600.

Settlement Operations (1902—1910).—During the last Survey and Settlement Operations (1902—1910) the Government revenue payable at Bhagalpur was Rs. 6,06,778. The changes in revenue jurisdiction brought in the changes in the revenue demand. This included the areas of *Mahalat* Kharagpur, the large portion of which is situated in Monghyr and the area of Lachhmipur estate which lies in Santhal Parganas; the revenue of the former was Rs. 46,020 and of the latter Rs. 5,916. This reduces the revenue to Rs. 5,54,842 which was payable for practically the whole area of the district except the portion apperataining to *pargana* Dharampur.

**Survey and Settlement Report* (1902—1910), p. 18.

***Settlement Report* (1902—1910),p. 19.

According to the last Survey and Settlement Report the total area of the district was 4,158 square miles, of which *pargana* Dharampur covered 53. The incidence of Government revenue was therefore, Rs. 135 per square mile, or three annas four pies per acre.* The last *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1911), however, mentions at page 138 as follows :—

"At present the total land revenue demand is Rs. 6,05,746. On an area of 4,426 square miles, this gives an incidence of revenue per acre of only 3.5 annas, which is abnormally low." Taken together the difference between the figures given in the last Survey and Settlement Report (1902—1910) and the last District Gazetteer (1911) is small and can be ignored.

The incidence of land revenue appears to be excessively low in Bhagalpur district which will be apparent from the figures of the other districts of Bihar in which the Settlement Operations had also been completed.

District.	Area in square miles.	Revenue.	Incidence† per acre.		
		Rs.	Rs.	a.	p.
Darbhanga	3,348	7,88,301	0	5	10
Muzaffarpur	3,033	9,65,128	0	7	11
Saran	2,674	12,63,128	0	11	9
Champaran	3,531	5,15,553	0	3	7
North Monghyr	1,451	3,74,060	0	6	5
South Monghyr	2,318	4,02,716	0	4	4
Purnea	4,994	11,79,591	0	6	2
Bhagalpur	4,659	5,54,842	0	3	4

At the time of Permanent Settlement ten per cent of the assets of each estate, after deducting the cost of collections, were left to the *zamindars*.

History of Land Revenue Assessment and Management.

The history of land revenue assessment and management of Bhagalpur district follows the same pattern as in other districts. There is a continuity in the core of it from the ancient period

*Final Survey and Settlement Report in the District of Bhagalpur (1902—1910), p. 24.
†Last Survey and Settlement Report (1902—1910), p. 24.

to the end of the Mughal and then in the British period. There had been changes and modifications from time to time, but the fundamental features appear to have remained unaltered. In revenue history of the early Muslim and Mughal period we find some striking features which have their parallel in the earlier period in regard to the method of land revenue assessment and collection and forms of payment of land revenue. The Muslims or even the Britishers who came here in the wake of their conquest did not outright impose entirely a new system. On the other hand they adopted mainly, certainly with some modifications what the time required. According to the sacred law of the Hindus the kings and peasants were in a bilateral relation in regard to right, the duty of the peasant was to raise the produce and pay a share of it to the State in return for the protection afforded to him. Of course it is duty rather than the right of acceptance that finds mention in the old sacred books. The Muslim sovereign not unlike some Hindu kings considered himself as a proprietor of the soil, so he was entitled to get the whole produce. As such in theory there was no fixity of State demand. But in practice 1/3rd or even ½ md. of the total produce was taken as a king share during Muslim period.

The assessment of the land revenue was ascertained by the reference of the area and quality of the land. The assessment of Todarmall was based on the four-fold classification of lands such as (*i*) *Polaj* (lands continuously cultivated and never allowed to lie fallow), (*ii*) *Parauti* (land left fallow for a time that may be sufficient to recover its fertility), (*iii*) *Chachar* (land that has been left fallow for three or four years) and (*iv*) *banjar* (land which remained uncultivated for five years or more). Each of the first two classes were subdivided into three grades good, middling and bad, and the average produce was calculated from the mean of the three grades. The classification was determined not by the examination of the soil but on the basis of continuity of cultivation. The revenue fixed in kind was commuted for money payment on the basis of revenue price for the previous ten years. But payment in kind was the general rule.

The Britishers who inherited the prevailing system of assessment adopted it with slight modification. Mr. Murphy the Settlement Officer of Bhagalpur (1902—10) had mentioned the procedure generally adopted in fixing cash rents as follows:—

> "The lands were classified, and where possible, the average rates paid for similar classes of land in the vicinity were ascertained. In many cases this was not possible, as the rates paid bore little or no reference to the class of the land. In such cases the average cash rate paid in the village for all lands was taken. The average annual value of the produce rent realised by the landlord in the previous ten years was also calculated, and the

mean between this and the rental calculated at the average rate or rates was taken as a fair rent. As a rule the average annual value of the produce rents was greater than the rent calculated at the prevailing cash rates, and hence the landlord generally stood to loose by the commutation. In many of the villages belonging to the Baneli estate, however, the opposite was the case. In these the result of the coummutation proceedings was to increase the landlord's income by about 20 per cent. Strange to say the only objection was raised by the landlords themselves, who were not satisfied and asked for more. The raiyats were quite willing to pay the enhanced rents. This is instructive, as it indicates that the persons chiefly interested in the maintenance of the produce rent system are the landlords' servants who find in it unlimited opportunities for blackmail. The manager of this estate is clearly aware of this, for in recent years he has himself commuted the rents of large numbers of holdings. The only objection to commutation through the settlement courts appears to be that the andlord does not get the *salami*, which is usually paid when the commutation is done by private agreement."*

The average cash rates of rent per acre paid by different classes of raiyats in Bhagalpur district was Re. 1/4/- for raiyats at fixed rates, Rs. 2-10-6 for occupancy raiyats and Rs. 2-15-3 for non-occupancy raiyats. Thus the incidence of average rent per acre fixed during last survey and settlement operations (1902—10) was Rs. 2-10-5.**

Besides the cash rent the other form of prevailing rent was produce rent. This was the chief source of the bone of contention between the landlords and the tenants. The total area under produce rent during the last Survey and Settlement Operations was 157,073 and the incidence of assessment of this sort of land was calculated at Rs. 8 per acre which was higher than in Darbhanga and Monghyr districts. The produce rent paying land in Bhagalpur was mostly irrigated land in the south of the district. The total rental under different heads was as follows:—

	Rs.
Cash rental	40,44,595
Produce rental of areas at Rs. 8 per acre ..	12,56,584
Annual value of lands in the direct possession of proprietors and tenure holders—157,531 at Rs. 6.	9,45,186
Total	62,46,365

* Final report on the *Survey and Settlement operations* in the Bhagalpur District (1902—1910), p. 96.

** *Ibid*, p. 123.

The appraisal is given in the last Survey and Settlement Report and is partially given as follows:—

"This shows the average assets to be Rs. 1,662 per square mile or Rs. 2-9-6 per acre. The incidence of Government revenue has been calculated in paragraph 349 to be Rs. 135 per square mile or annas 3 pies 4 per acre.

"The zamindars therefore enjoy over 91 per cent of the total assets instead of the 10 per cent which was reserved to them by the permanent settlement. In no other Bihar district is the disproportion between the assets and the revenue so noticeable as in Bhagalpur. The fact that the settlement was made at a time when the greater part of the district was covered with jungle, account for this result."*

Later land revenue history.

The period which followed the last Survey and Settlement Operations (1902—10) and the publication of the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) till the passing of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 witnessed practically no change in the history of the land revenue administration. The land revenue demand of the district practically remained static. The total land revenue demand according to Mr. Byrne in 1911 was Rs. 6,05,746 as against Rs. 6,17,071 in 1954 on the eve of the separation of Saharsa district. It was so because the majority of the estates of Bhagalpur district were permanently settled. This will be evident from the recital of the facts mentioned in the last District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur (1911) regarding the estates:—

"At the time of the permanent settlement, there were only forty estates in the district. Since that time the number has increased rapidly and at present there are 4,643 permanently settled estates in the district. In addition there are 18 temporarily settled estates and 63 estates held direct by Government.

"The majority of the estates in this district pay less than 100 rupees revenue. According to an analysis made in 1901, there were 3,954 estates held by proprietors who paid less than Rs. 100 for each estate as land revenue. The average area of each estate was 84 acres and the average assessment of each estate was only Rs. 19. In all, these small estates covered an area of 332,312 acres.

"At the same time there were 699 estates that paid each between Rs. 100 and Rs. 5,000 as land revenue. These covered 813,239 acres. Eleven estates covering 624,119 acres paid between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 50,000 each and only one estate paid more than that amount. It covers 1,113,500 acres and is assessed at Rs. 72,498.

**Survey and Settlement Report* (1902—1910), p. 125.

"The number of revenue-free estates is 1,320 covering 49,990 acres, the average area of each estate being 38 acres.

"The modern tendency is obviously to increase the number of estates and to reduce correspondingly the average assessment of each. This is the result of the importation of Western notions of individual ownership, and the operation of the law for the partition of estates. Bhagalpur is still, fortunately for those entrusted with its revenue administration, far behind several other Bihar districts as regards the number of estates borne on its revenue-roll.

"The total demand for the 18 estates that are temporarily settled is at present about Rs. 1,950 per annum; and for the 63 estates held direct by Government it is about Rs. 38,700 per annum. The areas affected are mainly riparian and as they are not of very great importance no detailed account of them is given".*

The interregnum figures of revenue for the temporarily settled estates were not available in the Collectorate office of Bhagalpur. But from the figures available in the Collectorate from 1947-48 it appears that the number of temporary settled estates and the estates held direct by Government decreased appreciably; the number of former being 6 and of the latter 4 in Bhagalpur district excluding Saharsa. The corresponding figures of temporary settled estates and the estates held direct by Government were 3 and 4 respectively in 1947-48 in Saharsa district. The number of permanent settled estates on the eve of vesting of estates to State in Bhagalpur was 6,453.

The total demand of land revenue in 1954 on the eve of separation of Saharsa district was Rs. 6,17,071 and cess demand Rs. 9,90,528. In 1955 after the separation of Saharsa the land revenue demand of the district was Rs. 3,59,694 and cess demand Rs. 5,37,906.

All the temporary settled estates were in Sadar subdivision, one in Bihpur, three in Colgong and two in Kotwali police-station. The total revenue demand was Rs. 1,393. The Khasmahal estates were at Tintanga, Jagatpur, Mohanpur and Ramnagar; Rs. 20,090 for the first three which were in one *tauji* and Rs. 1,917 of the last in 1954-55.

PRESENT SYSTEM OF SURVEY

The first Cadastral Survey and Settlement Operations were conducted in the district during 1902—10 by Mr. P. W. Murphy, I.C.S. Since then no survey had been conducted. In the Cadastral Survey the *diara* villages were excluded from the Bengal Tenancy Act operations, but were topographically surveyed on the 16"

* *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* (1911), pp. 138-139.

scale under the Survey Act. After 1902 the Kosi and Ganga *diara* areas in Bhagalpur and Purnea was surveyed with •4" scale by the revenue survey village; boundaries were made and were not decided according to possession. This change was made because it was found that maps of boundaries by possession at the time of their preparation were of little assistance to the courts as possession in *diara* changes rapidly. The creation of Saharsa, a separate district in 1954 marked an important phase in the old Bhagalpur district. The vesting of all the intermediaries of the district in the State in 1956 marked another important epoch in history of the land revenue administration of the district. The abolition of Zamindaris brought direct relation between the Government and the tillers of the soil. Since the State Government stepped into the shoe of the ex-intermediaries the assets and liabilities of the land revenue now vested in Government. This has necessitated to bring the record-of-rights each of the tenants up to date. This object cannot be achieved without a fresh Survey and Settlement. Even during the last Survey and Settlement (1902—10) the areas forming the Gangetic belt were outside the orbit of the operations. The earliest survey of the Gangetic *diara* area was done in 1847. This was followed by a professional *diara* survey during 1865-68 with a view to the re-adjustment of revenue rendered necessary by change in the riparian area. Since then no Survey was conducted in the Gangetic belt. In 1956-57 theodolite traverse survey was done in the *diara* areas which was followed by Cadastral Survey in 1958. The Cadastral Survey is still in progress.

In this survey village boundaries are being fixed on the basis of the last revenue survey of 1847 with minor adjustment due to inevitable changes which took place in more than hundred years. Possession is often taken as one of the vital criteria of occupancy rights. But other relevant factors are not ignored. In course of Survey a large number of cases have come to light in which tenants were not paying any rent to ex-landlords and they are being assessed now.

The system of assessment marked practically little change from the last Survey and Settlement Operations. The rent of the unassessed land as stated before is assessed after the classification of lands, the average rates paid for similar classes of land in the vicinity are generally taken into consideration. In some cases where it is not possible the average rent of all sorts of lands of the thana is taken, and according to new formulae two annas *ijafa* (or increase) per rupee is added.

The collection of revenue, after the abolition of zamindaris, had been entrusted to Karamchari, one for each *halka*. There are 210 *halkas* in the district. There is a scheme to entrust the rent collection work to Gram Panchayats and as a preliminary measure some Gram Panchayats have been entrusted for collection work. The details will be given later.

INCOME FROM LAND REVENUE

Land revenue is the chief source of State income. According to tenancy law rent is the first charge on the land. After the abolition of the *zamindari* system its importance has increased considerably. The average rent per acre during the last Survey and Settlement Operations (1902—10) was calculated at Rs. 2-9-6. Since then no Cadastral Survey has been conducted in the district. In absence of a detailed survey it would be hazardous to come to any conclusion. The *bujharat* operations are still under completion. But from the figures of current demand of land revenue it appears that there had been progressive increase in the land revenue of the district. The hitherto *Kabililangan* and *Khas* lands of the ex-landlords which had not been assessed previously are now being assessed.

Cess is assessed and realised in accordance with the provisions of the Bengal Cess Act, 1880, as subsequently modified by the rules framed thereunder. Prior to abolition of *zamindaris*, the ex-landlords used to pay cess at the rate of two annas per rupee on the annual value of land. The annual value of some of the estates was, however, considerably reduced as a result of rent commutation operations and Government have, therefore, amended section 37 of the Cess Act by the insertion of section 37-A giving powers to the Collectors to effect reduction in the cess liability of the estate from the date of rent commutation. After abolition, the State Government, in whom the *zamindaris* vested under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, have to pay cess to the District Board at the same rate. In view, however, of the fact that up till now it has not been possible to complete the reduction of cess under section 37-A of the Cess Act and make an accurate estimate of the total annual value of land due to absence of up-to-date land records the total amount of cess payable to the District Boards annually has not yet been correctly determined. The State Government are, therefore, making advances to the District Boards against State liability for payment of cess since 1952-53 on the basis of figures prior to abolition. The statement of amount of advances made to the Bhagalpur District Board from Government from 1952-53 to 1956-57 is as follows*:—

1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1,60,000	1,42,342	2,00,000	2,38,000	5,31,579	5,06,421	5,16,084	5,24,330	3,21,688

* Appendix VII of the consolidated *Report on the L.R.A. of the State of Bihar* for the years 1952—57 published in 1961 and the later figures were taken from the Bhagalpur Collectorate office.

From 1959-60 the State Government have imposed Education Cess at the rate of one anna per rupee on the annual value of land to meet the rising expenditure on education. This cess has been enforced for the expansion of education.

The statement of land revenue demand and collection along with cess is appended below.

Year.		Annual Demand.							
		Rent.		Cess.		Education Cess.		Miscellaneous Cess.	
		Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1957-58	..	15,76,472.94	21,95,410.41	1,21,643.44	1,47,306.31	..	..	70,009.74	1,18,464.62
1958-59	..	22,72,343.00	20,64,500.00	2,09,688.00	1,52,386.00	..	..	1,00,618.57	1,79,617.00
1959-60	..	22,85,380.00	23,00,514.00	2,18,297.00	1,78,795.00	..	41,726.60	1,19,842.48	2,46,083.47
1960-61	..	23,59,762.16	23,90,691.29	2,31,570.24	2,11,548.02	1,57,014.98	1,54,392.72	1,75,215.29	2,36,248.50
1961-62 up to February, 1962.	..	29,01,769.20	24,59,723.78	3,01,361.19	2,19,119.10	2,00,760.15	1,59,459.86	2,17,932.90	2,25,105.30

TOTAL COLLECTION UP TO DATE.

Year.	Rent.		Cess.		Education Cess.		Miscellaneous Cess.	
	Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1957-58 ..	3,21,331.90	4,32,904.94	23,630.22	38,513.44	..	..	13,575.62	1,03,455.62
1958-59 ..	17,44,728.12	10,99,477.16	1,29,002.86	81,095.93	..	..	22,206.69	1,22,586.06
1959-60 ..	16,17,963.05	10,15,331.11	1,18,823.61	74,477.25	..	4,395.50	38,934.93	1,53,156.43
1960-61 ..	18,91,853.33	9,05.355.51	1,35,948.26	70,058.60	60,015.93	59,884.19	22,853.51	165,201.79
1961-62 .. up to February, 1962.	3,13,249.50	1,85,368.15	21,907.47	13,093.98	14,621.27	12,117.10	15,576.69	1,31,377.29

STATEMENT SHOWING DEMAND AND COLLECTION OF SADAR SUBDIVISION FOR 1961-62 (IN RUPEES).

Serial no.	Name of Anchals.	Demand for the year.		Collection up to date.		Remarks.
		Arrear.	Current.	Arear.	Current.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Jagdishpur ..	1,96,138.89	1,56,369.25	21,440.64	35,133.67	
2	Town Area ..	28,090.97	29,288.18	6,366.52	3,398.91	
3	Nathnagar ..	58,581.09	70,438.70	2,135.20	3,365.47	
4	Sultanganj ..	2,17,170.49	1,71,722.10	5,756.04	10,426.25	
5	Sahkund ..	2,51,550.60	1,76,749.50	15,077.81	9,343.00	
6	Sabour ..	2,08,140.77	1,50,604.38	14,839.72	16,800.10	
7	Colgong ..	4,05,595.53	2,41,247.19	26,367.23	14,310.38	
8	Pirpainty ..	2,49,902.87	2,03,865.09	7,296.39	15,764.03	
9	Sanhaula ..	2,58,610.98	1,52,240.54	13,204.28	7,406.62	
10	Bihpur ..	1,27,740.98	1,06,192.19	18,020.23	16,732.32	
11	Naugachia ..	94,358.05	1,05,422.45	23,982.38	17,271.76	
12	Gopalpur ..	1,58,477.42	1,33,211.14	12,208.83	7,136.01	
	TOTAL ..	22,54,358.54	16,97,350.71	1,66,693.37	1,57,090.52	

STATEMENT SHOWING ANCHALWISE DEMAND AND COLLECTION OF BANKA SUBDIVISION 1961-62 (IN RUPEES).

Serial no.	Name of Anchals.	Demand for the year.		Collection up to date.		Remarks.
		Arrear.	Current.	Arrear.	Current.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Amarpur ..	4,22,291.72	2,12,808.15	10,987.69	23,634.00	
2	Banka ..	50,812.89	1,15,351.03	20,359.77	21,449.00	
3	Barahat ..	95,105.86	1,10,085.59	13,500.03	9,948.94	
4	Bounsi ..	52,357.55	1,16,892.24	6,626.21	21,444.05	
5	Chandan ..	52,880.29	56,078.03	15,829.64	10,399.51	
6	Dhoraiya ..	1,20,593.62	1,69,797.32	37,253.60	13,100.80	
7	Katoria ..	1,29,954.49	98,575.16	14,119.73	16,926.02	
8	Rajoun ..	1,26,853.28	1,73,909.30	29,754.97	29,413.43	
9	Shambhuganj ..	1,68,880.68	1,55,000.24	25,950.09	7,889.15	
10	Belhar ..	1,47,734.82	1,57,560.27	24,280.63	25.671.23	
	TOTAL ..	13,67,454.90	12,66,057.33	1,98,661.56	1,84,866.12	

LAND REFORMS

Relation between landlords and tenants

Zamindari system was the creation of the Permanent Settlement of 1793. It was not formed on the basis of mutual contract of the two parties. Peculiarly enough the contract was executed by the alien British Government and the few vested privileged people. Since the tenants were not party to this contract they poignantly considered it as an imposition by the third party. As such it was but natural that the relations between the ex-landlords and their tenants remained throughout the whole *zamindari* regime strained and unsatisfactory. The *zamindar* as a class was considered parasitical. Their interest was never common.

The relationship between the landlords and the tenants had been viewed in a rather lurid light in the last District Gazetteer in the chapter 'Rent. Wages and Prices". Long extracts from the reports of the District Magistrate, Mr. F.F.Lyall for the years 1907-08 and 1908-09 have been given there indicting the landlords as a class. He has quoted the instance of *zamindars* like Rash Bihari Mandal and Maharaja of Sonbarsa (Sonbarsa is now in Saharsa district) as realising much more than what was due as a rent. The *zamindars* have been described as forgerers, robbers and oppressors. The view of Mr. Lyall may be taken to be one-sided and too severe on the landlords. In the text on History it has been mentioned that in his enthusiasm Lyall even criticised the Judges. The quotations in the last District Gazetteer from Lyall's reports from 1908-09 also show his veiled contempt for the procedure under which justice was administered either in Civil Courts or in the Criminal Courts. The evils pointed out by Lyall are not peculiar to Bhagalpur district alone. In a way it may be said that the Permanent Settlement brought in a sort of benevolent despotism between the landlords who had the rights very well protected by law and the tenants who had the poverty as a common lot. It is correct that whenever absentee landlordism predominated the troubles of the raiyats increased. But the *zamindars* also to a great extent discharged their social obligations. It will be shown later that their contribution to the cultural advancement of the district had not been inconsiderable.

The administration had tried to keep the balance as far as possible till the *zamindari* abolition was undertaken in 1950 as an aid to bring about a socialistic pattern of society which has been taken up as a policy of the State after independence in 1947. The various agrarian laws that had been put under statute book either as amendments to the existing tenancy legislation or as new Acts were meant for giving the much needed relief to the tenants. Such actions had been referred to elsewhere. The spread of education, the extension of ideas of Local Self-Government and

communications, spread of journalism, conclusion of settlement proceedings, etc., were also so many aids to bring about a better relationship. The growth of a cultured and independent Bar in Bhagalpur and Bhagalpur Bar had set a standard in the State was also a help to the tenantry. Even when the big planters had their *zamindaris* like the Grant's estate, etc., there were no dearth of lawyers to take up the cases of the oppressed tenantry. The extension of the police system by the setting up of more police thanas in the interior also helped the maintenance of better relationship with tenantry. Both the big Planters' estates and the powerful Indian *zamindars* required equal attention.

It could not be expected that with the spread of education and the district had a considerable spurt in the first two decades of the present century that the tenants would any longer be meekly submitting to the whims and oppressions of the landlords. There was a considerable friction between the tenants and the management of the Grant's estate and between the Banaili *zamindars* and the tenants. In the third decade the relationship had become very acute. It may be recalled that the Champaran *Satyagraha* of Gandhiji had by then been concluded with success for the *raiyats* who were suffering in the hands of the European Indigo Planters. This event gave a great jolt to the administration, the big *zamindars* and the poor tenants. The tenants were first taught the lesson of unity and there was also a certain spirit of unrest and lawlessness throughout the country. The agitation in connection with Rowlatt Act, the disturbances in the Punjab, the great stir by the adoption of the Non-Co-operation Movement by the Indian National Congress brought a climate that encouraged the *raiyats* to unite and even to take an aggressive attitude. The *diara* disputes, the commutation proceedings and the large number of cases under sections 144 and 145 of the Criminal Procedure Code that took place in the first few years after 1928 are suggestive. The Non-Co-operation Movement made the situation more acute and there were riots attended with murder in Mr. Grant's *zamindari*. A Survey and preparation of the record-of-rights in the *diara* areas was ordered with a view to the settlement of the dispute. Any Settlement proceedings are bound to raise disputes and make the situation tense for sometime at least.

In 1922-23 with the advent of the Kisan Sabha agitation a new phase began in the relation between the two classes. The Kisan Sabha became vocal throughout Bihar and the grievances of the tenants and the exploitation of their landlords got widespread publication. The Kisan Movement spread in Bhagalpur district.

In 1923-24 there was considerable bitterness in the Banka Subdivision against the landlords for their neglect of irrigation for which the commutation of produce rent was largely responsible. The settlement of Alamnagar was completed during the year. In

Sonbarsa and the neighbouring villages belonging to Mr. Grant there was no trouble between the *zamindar* and tenants but between one set of tenants and another. In Supaul which is now in Saharsa district it was significant that the *zamindar* candidates for the council were defeated by candidates who professed to represent the *raiyats*."

The changes in course of the Ganga after rains in 1924-25 led to several land disputes in Gopalpur, Pirpainti, Colgong and Nathnagar *thanas*. The dispute over the *diara* area of 1,600 *bighas* between Babu Hemendra Nath Ghosal and his tenants in Gopalpur assumed a dangerous aspect and prompt measures had to be taken to avert an outburst. The feelings of latent hostility marked the succeeding year, i. e., in 1925-26. Gopalpur area was still a troublesome spot.

There was considerable friction in Bhagalpur in 1926-27 owing to the attempts of landlords to obtain enhancement of rent. Conditions in some part of north Bhagalpur became alarming where a record-of-rights had not yet been prepared. In succeeding years enhancement proceedings vis-a-vis cheap price of agricultural goods produced great commotion. In 1929-30 agrarian disputes centred round newly accreted *diara* lands in the Sadar subdivision which formed subject of litigation both in the Civil and Criminal Courts.

Complaints were often heard of the dishonest practice of some landlords of double receipts and double settlement of lands. In 1931-32 trouble was anticipated in the Sonbarsa *diara* in the Sadar subdivision, but the posting of additional police force eased the situation. In the Banka subdivision most of the big *zamindars* allowed some remissions in rent and afforded facilities for payment. Some discontent prevailed among the Santhals in Katoria and Belhar police-stations who wanted the introduction of Santhal Parganas system of land laws. The interests of Santhals had to be secured.

Alarming fall in price of agricultural produce and the high rate of rent prevailing caused widespread commotion in the Banka subdivision in 1933-34. The landlords refused to grant any concession by way of remissions of rent or interest and took all possible steps to realise their dues. In 1934-35 also there was a good deal of recrimination between the landlords and tenants in the Banka subdivision. The tenants withheld payment of rent and charged the landlords responsible for difficulties of the tenants owing to their negligence of irrigation facilities. In the *zamindari* of Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Rai in the Sadar subdivision disputes arose with his tenants over the possession of lands.

In 1935-36 the relation between the landlords and tenants entered upon a new phase owing to continued attempts made by

the Kisan Sabha to ventilate the grievances of the tenants and the high-handedness of the landlords. In Banka subdivision the relation continued to be unsatisfactory. In the Khasmahals and in some of the *zamindaris* steps were taken to grant remission in rent. In 1936-37 the Kisan Sabha agitation continued to exercise great influence on tenants, encouraging them to resist illegal exactions. The frequent visits of the Kisan Sabha leaders kept the agitation alive.

In 1937 the Congress Party formed its Ministry in view of the Provincial Autonomy of 1935. The Congress Government took some statutory measures to ameliorate the condition of the peasants. During the first Ministry of the Congress it became clear that the abolition of the *zamindari* was imminent The amendments of the Bihar Tenancy Act, 1885, in 1934, 1935 and 1937 were preliminary measures to substantiate the occupancy rights of the *raiyats*.

In 1937-38 the cultivation of Bakast lands by the landlords which were hitherto usually cultivated by the tenants led to agrarian disputes in some estates of the district. The Bihar Restoration of Bakasht Lands and Reduction of Arrear of Rent Act, 1938 was passed and the aggravated situation averted. In 1938-39 the *raiyats* made wholesale claim over the Bakasht lands and withheld the payment of rent. Commutation Proceedings also received a fillip. The situation remained strained during the whole year, though kept under control by constant vigilance. The policy of double settlement in several cases by the Sonbarsa estate made the situation aggravated in 1939-40.

In Bhagalpur relations became all the more strained after the rent reduction operations. During 1940-41 the activities of the Kisan Sabha further aggravated the situation. The reappearance of *diara* lands in certain areas revived the old fight between the rival landlords. The *zamindars'* attitude towards their peasants was now largely one of hostility owing to the reduction of rents and restoration of Bakast lands. Some of the *zamindars* began to deliberately neglect the maintenance of irrigation facilities as they were assured of their rent even if the facilities were not maintained. The healthy and friendly relationship of the landlords and the tenants had brought about the system under which the landlords had the social obligation of maintaining the irrigational facilities. Now because that spirit had faded, they refused to look to the irrigation facilities. The Commutation proceedings under which rent in kind was reduced to cash rent also gave the *zamindars* the idea that they need not maintain such facilities. There was also no effective law by which the *zamindars* could be forced to do so.

Instances of high-handedness on the part of the landlords were reported from Banka subdivision in 1945-46. In this subdivision

Darbhanga Raj realised money as *salami* by settling some *gairmazrua* lands which were already in the cultivating possession of the local Santhals. The Subdivisional Officer, Banka asked the Darbhanga Raj to return the *salami* realised and to settle the lands with the cultivating tenants but the Raj disregarded the instructions.

The formation of the Second Congress Ministry in Bihar in 1946 is an event of great historical importance. During the tenure of the First Congress Ministry the abolition of *zamindaris* was mooted and during the Second Congress Ministry it became a State policy. The peasants aspired to release themselves from the yoke of feudal servitude, and it became evident by the fact that once their grievances were redressed the strained relation between the landlords and tenants itself rapidly collapsed. Besides economic factors the psychological factors were not less important because of the growing bitterness between the *zamindars* and their tenants. The expansion of education and the free flow of western democratic ideas through press slowly brought in an intellectual stimulus. The later history of the relationship between the landlords and the tenants has been given in the succeeding section.

The *zamindari* system with a Permanent Settlement was a potent source of the strained relation between the tenants and the landlords. The landlords were encouraged to live a life of ease and with little interest in the tenantry and as such it was the system and not the individuals that really counted as a source of trouble. There are records to show that some of the *zamindars* of the district discharged their social obligations well. The construction of *ahars* and *pynes*, the chief indigenous source of irrigation in the south of the district was a move for mutual benefit of the *zamindars* and the *raiyats*. *Ahars* and *pynes* received praise from every quarter and proved the main stay of irrigation. They often remitted a portion of the rentals due and if the tenants were in any difficulties gave them financial help. Some of the *zamindars* had brilliant records of patriotic zeal and had founded schools, colleges and libraries. The late Deep Narain Singh of Bhagalpur and the Banaili *zamindar* have their great contribution to the district in various ways. Singh was one of the earliest Congressmen in Bihar and his sacrifices and patriotic fervour were striking.

Tej Narain Singh, father of the celebrated Deep Narain Singh, did pioneer work in opening a college at Bhagalpur in 1887 which came to be known as Tej Narain Jubilee College, Bhagalpur. The other *zamindars* also made liberal donation for upkeep of this college. The college is now called Tej Narain Banaili College because of the substantial donation made by the Banaili Raj.

Some of the *zamindars* had to incur recurring expenditure for the upkeep of the schools and dispensaries they had opened in their *zamindari* areas. After the abolition of the *zamindaris* the maintenance of such institution is the responsibility of the State Government. The munificence of Raja Shib Chandra Banerji founded a large number of schools, hospitals, waterworks, etc., The following statement shows the names of some of the institutions which were opened by the ex-*zamindars* and the maintenance is now done by Government :—

Serial no.	Name of institution.	Name of the Ex-intermediary.	Amount paid by the State.
1	2	3	4
			Rs.
1	Shri Sardhari Lal Charitable Dispensary, Mohaddinagar, Bhagalpur.	Shri K. Lal and others of Deorhi Mahaddinagar, Bhagalpur.	249 per month.
2	Rai H. M. T. Bahadur Hospital and Debi Ganga Bati Thakurain Charitable Dispensary, Barari, Bhagalpur.	Shri Naresh Mohan Thakur and others of Barari, Bhagalpur.	3,000 per year.
3	C. and D. H. E. School, Baunsi	Lachmipur estate ..	1,219.50 per year.
4	P. N. S. College, Baunsi ..	Ditto	3,000 per year.
5	Rai H. M. T. Bahadur H. E. School, Barari, Bhagalpur.	Shri Naresh Mohan Thakur and others of Barari, Bhagalpur.	3,000 per year.
6	Bindheshwari Vidayalay, Burhanath, Bhagalpur.	Shri Naresh Mohan Thakur and others and Raj Banaili, etc.	390 per year.
7	Sahu H. E. School, Parbatta, P.-S. Naugachia.	Sahu estate, Parbatta ..	6,095 per year.

Tenants and Tenancy Law

A picture of the tenants as they were and the history of some of the tenancy laws will be useful.

The tenants of this district may be classified as tenure holders, *raiyats* and under-*raiyats*. The *raiyats* hold lands on cash rent and many cultivate lands as *Bhaulidars* paying rent in kind. The rights and liabilities of the tenure-holders, *raiyats* and under-*raiyats* have been given in detail in the Bihar Tenancy Act. Before 1934, there was difficulty of transferability of *raiyati* lands. A purchaser of land either by registered sale deed or through court in execution of money decrees was at the mercy

of the landlord and their *amlas* who used to recognize the transfer or refuse the same at their sweet will. Exorbitant *salami* used to be charged from the transferees by the landlords for recording recognition to the purchase and for mutating their names. Even after the payment of *salami*, the purchaser had to execute a deed of surrender with respect of the purchased land and then to take a fresh settlement of the same from the landlord at an enhanced rent. It was not unusual for a *salami* of Rs. 25 per cent to be charged over the consideration money. In many cases, the purchaser had to lose their lands because of their inability to meet the demands of heavy *salami*.

The *raiyats* also had no right to manufacture bricks or tiles or to excavate tanks or dig wells even for drinking purpose on *raiyati* lands; nor could they erect any building without the consent of the landlord. Consent of the landlord could only be obtained by heavy *salami*, which the *raiyats* could hardly afford.

The lands held by the cultivators were to be found under the following categories :—

(*a*) The *zamindars'* land either Bakasta or Zerat,

(*b*) Tenants holding lands under the landlords either on their own account or on behalf of the landlords, and

(*c*) Thirdly sub-tenants holding lands under the tenants.

In this district it was often the case that in a village a major portion of the lands was held by the landlords or some big tenants and which lands form the bulk of "A" class lands available in the village.

Such big landlords who could not cultivate their land all by themselves and they had to depend on the system of letting out their lands on *bhawli* or *batai*. While doing so they took care not to settle it permanently or not to allow evidence to be created in favour of the *bhawlidars* so that they can claim an occupancy right in the lands. *Bhawlidars* were thus mostly at the mercy of the people from whom they held their lands. These landlords or the cultivators were in the habit of acquiring more lands and they did not seem to be satiated and the procedure adopted by them was to take recourse to rent suits and money-suits. Money-lenders also formed an important section in the above processes. On a comparison of the actual possession of the landlords land as it existed at the time of the last record-of-rights and the position as regards possession obtaining before *zamindari* abolition will disclose that those who were the owners of lands in small holdings in the past had fallen in the categories of landless labourers or at best *bhawlidars*. Such cases were common, especially where there had been alluvian and diluvian of the area, several stretches of drought, etc., when rents and other liabilities of the lands fell into

arrears. There were villages where for thousands of acres of lands the original tillers of soil had not an inch of land to be claimed as their own which in the past were in their possession but some how or the other these fell into the hands of the new-comers.

Coming to the question of agricultural occupation, cultivation of lands and private land economy, the big owners of the lands depended much on their employees or *bataidars* for agricultural cultivation whereas the smaller tenants cultivated their lands all within their family strength and it was only when their holding was big enough for their family members to manage, they took recourse to outside help. This, however, had got exception amongst certain classes of caste Hindus and well to do people who did not till their lands by themselves. Such classes of caste Hindus were mostly the Rajputs, Bhumihars, etc. The supervision was their but the manual labour was acquired from outside the family limits, mostly from other local people.

The Bihar Tenancy Amendment Act (8) of 1934 put the first check to the whims and caprices of the landlords. It recognised all transfers made before 1923 by sale or gift without a transfer fee and for the succeeding period a fee of Rs. 4 per cent over the consideration money was fixed as "Landlords" fee. This legislation gave a much needed relief to the *raiyats* by giving them a statutory right in respect of the use of their lands. The Bihar Tenancy Act was further amended in the year 1938 (Bihar Act II of 1938) during the first Congress Ministry in Bihar. The *raiyats* were given full rights in their lands and henceforward they could use their lands for all legitimate purposes and to dispose of the same in a manner they liked without the consent of the landlord. Only a nominal fee or "Landlords" registration fee had to be deposited at the time of the registration of the deed of transfer. A further improvement in the position of the *raiyats* has been brought about by a subsequent insertion of section 23 (*a*) in the Bihar Tenancy Act in 1947. This confers on the occupancy *raiyats*, a right in all trees over their holdings. They can now plant trees and bamboos, cut and appropriate the same. They can now also appropriate the flowers and fruits and other products in trees and bamboos. They can also get the rent of trees of any Bhauli holding converted into cash rent. Any realisation of *Tahrir* (illegal gratification or Abwab) by the landlords or his Agents has been made penal. Provision has been made for payment of rent by postal money order and this has practically destroyed the power of the Amlas of the landlords to harass the *raiyats*. All these improvements in the status and the rights of *raiyats* have been brought about by amendment of the Bihar Tenancy Act from time to time.

A large number of proceedings for commutation of produce-rent into cash under section 40, Bihar Tenancy Act has conferred great

blessings on the *raiyats* as the prices of foodgrains in recent years have gone up several times and it is highly profitable for the *raiyats* to pay rent in cash.

The lot of the under-*raiyats* under the old Tenancy Act was pitiable indeed. They could be driven out from their lands according to the sweet will of the *raiyats* as they enjoyed no statutory rights in the lands cultivated by them. By the amendment in the Bihar Tenancy Act in 1938, the under *raiyats* were granted some statutory rights under section 48A of the Act which enabled them to acquire occupancy rights in the lands cultivated by them for 12 years or more continuously. They were subsequently granted the same rights with respect to the trees and bamboos and the use of and succession to and eviction from the lands as an occupancy *raiyat*. The under-*raiyats*, however, now do not have the right to transfer their lands without the consent of their immediate landlords. There is a move, however, to get a bill passed in the Bihar Legislative Assembly to confer this right on the under-*raiyats*.

The *Bhawlidars*, who cultivate the lands of landlords or tenure-holders enjoy certain rights but the position of *Bhawlidars* who cultivate the lands of *raiyats* is very unsafe. They have no statutory rights but there is a proposal to give such *Bhawlidars* also the right of occupancy in the lands cultivated by them. Now that Lands Reforms Act has been brought in force and the *zamindaris* have been taken over by the State, one by one, both the *zamindars* and the tenure-holders have disappeared and there is left only one class of tenants who will cultivate the lands directly under the State.

Aboriginals

Special provisions have been made in the Tenancy Act for the protection of the rights of the Aboriginals. Before 1935, the Aboriginals, who were mostly poor and illiterate cultivators were at the mercy of unscrupulous money-lenders. Most of their holdings were encumbered either in simple or 'Usufructuary mortgages'. The right of interest was both compound and exorbitant with the result that even small loans obtained by the Aboriginals used to pile up in a few years to a very huge amount, to pay off which the Aboriginals had to part with their lands either by private sale or by court-sale. The Aboriginals were thus losing their lands and turning into a class of landless labourers. The matter received the earnest consideration of the Government and a special loan was sanctioned for the Santhals of this sub-division to pay off their debts through the Subdivisional Officer due to whose intervention the unscrupulous money-lenders could get only the amounts which were considered just and fair. This

happened in the year 1936. Most of the interest on this special loan to Santhals were subsequently remitted by the State Government. A special Chapter VII-A was included in the Bihar Tenancy Act in 1955 imposing restriction on alienation of lands by Aboriginals. Under these provisions now there can be no transfer of the holding of any Aboriginal without the permission of the Collector whose power is exercised by the Subdivisional Officer.

Another special provision made in the interest of the Aboriginals is that the Subdivisional Officer has been vested with the powers of a Munsif to try Civil Suits against Aboriginals either for money suits or rent. *The District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur*, 1911 has a well reasoned plea for such a procedure and the passing of this measure has gone a long way to protect the Aboriginals from unscrupulous money-lenders.

Changes in jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of the district of Bhagalpur has undergone various changes. Additions and subtractions in the areas have been made in the years of 1855, 1864, 1874 and 1954. Since 1954, the district of Bhagalpur includes Bhagalpur Sadar and Banka having a total area of 2,123 square miles (Bhagalpur Sadar, 929 square miles and Banka 1,194 square miles). A new district Saharsa has been formed which is composed of Supaul (area 1,869 square miles) and Madhipura (area 2,352 square miles) both of which formerly belonged to Bhagalpur.

Special Tenures

There are remarkable types of tenures at Colgong (described in the Gazetteer of Bhagalpur) that formed a pargana under the district of Bhagalpur. They constituted parts of the *zamindari* rights of the landlords of that pargana. The tenures are known as *Mahal boro ajawan* and *mahal bhaisunda* and are held direct from the Government as ordinary estate in perpetuity, the Government revenue assessed being payable in instalments corresponding with those of the land revenue. Of the two tenures, the former, that is, the *baro ajawan* (*baro* meaning a species of paddy and *ajawan* meaning the coriander seed and a species of mustard or *rai*) is right of sowing rice called *barodhan* and coriander seed on newly formed land on the bank of the Ganga, when the soil is too soft to permit ploughing. This right ceases as soon as the land hardens and permits the use of plough, and the landholder, who according to the law is the owner of the land, gets back his right of cultivation and lets it to tenants. The second tenure known as *bhaisunda* (derived from *bhaisa* or buffalo) means the right of levying a tax on each head of the cattle grazing on all lands included in pargana Colgong.

Tenures and Tenancies.

The Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885 has led to the introduction of sub-infeudation, the tenants being composed of different gradations, varying from proprietors and the actual cultivators, the *raiyats* and the under-*raiyats*. Tenancy has been divided into the 'permanent tenancy' and 'non-permanent tenancy'. The rent of the 'permanent tenancy-holders' may or may not be fixed. The 'non-permanent tenures' granted for a short-term of years are called *mustajiri* leases.

Raiyati *Holdings*

Most of the *raiyats* of the district possess occupancy right over the soil and such occupancy holdings represents 90 per cent of the total number of the holdings. Such holdings bear an average size of 3 acres and their rents are liable to enhancement. The same *raiyat* may be the tenant of more than one holding. The occupancy rights may be transferred by sale or purchase.

There are tenants holding under the *raiyats* and they are mostly farm servants and field labourers. They work for the tenant farmer and get a piece of land from him for building their own cottages.

Like the revenue free properties but distinct from them, there are rent free-holders such rent free lands had been granted as religious offerings and are commonly known as *birt*, *sheopujai*, *mafi* and *barhmottar*.

Zamindari *Abolition*

When the *zamindari* abolition was introduced from June, 1952, the revenue administration of the district entered into a new phase. The lands permanently or temporarily settled were gradually taken over by Government. 3,406 estates were taken over.

Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950

The Congress Government, after assuming office in this State, took up the question of the abolition of the intermediary interest and wanted to bring the State and the tenants closer. The Permanent Settlement of Lord Cornwallis (1793) had created a class of privileged feudal chiefs and the institution had become worn-out and was almost a dead-weight against the creation of a socialistic State. The agitation launched by the Kisan Sabha with the active co-operation of the Congress during the twenties and thirties of the present century had led an acuteness to the problem and had exposed the evils of the *zamindari* system. The abolition of *zamindari* became one of the burning topics of discussion in the

press, platform and in the legislature. The *zamindari* system had created a wide hiatus between the tillers of the soil and the landlords and it was found difficult to bridge the gulf. Some of the ameliorative tenancy legislation, *viz.*, commutation of produce rent into cash rent, Bihar Restoration of Bakast Lands and Reduction of Arrear of Rent Act, 1938 passed previously had already curtailed the despotic powers of the landlords and upheld the rights of the tenants, but they were only palliatives. The *zamindari* system had outlived its utility and so its abolition became essential.

There was no precedent to go by and decision had to be taken to decide the conditions under which the various interests of the landlords in their estates and tenures would vest in the State. On the basis of the decision so reached, the Bihar State Acquisition of Zamindaries Bill, 1947 was drafted and introduced in the Legislature. The nomenclature of the Bill was subsequently changed to the Bihar Abolition of Zamindaries Bill and was passed by Legislature in 1948. The Bill was reserved for the consideration of the Governor-General of India under the provisions of Government of India Act, 1935. After a series of discussions between the Bihar Ministry and the Central Cabinet, the Bill was referred back for amending certain provisions dealing with mineral rights and the amending Bill was accordingly introduced and was passed by the Bihar Legislature in 1949 and thereafter the Bill was again reserved for the consideration of the Governor-General which was obtained in due course and the Bill was published as an Act.

The validity of the Bihar Abolitionof Zamindaries Act was challenged by certain landlords and the courts began granting injunctions. Meanwhile, it was felt that the Act did not have sufficient provisions for land reforms and hence it was decided to repeal this legislation and to introduce a more comprehensive one and the Bihar Land Reforms Bill was accordingly introduced in which provision was made for making over management of estates to Gram Panchayats, if the State Government so decided, and for formation of a Land Commission, consisting of both officials and non-officials to advise Government regarding the agrarian policy to be followed. After the Bill was passed by both Houses of Legislature, it was reserved for the assent of the President of India under Article 31(4) of the Constitution. It received duly the assent of the President and was published as an Act.

The validity of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 was also challenged in the Patna High Court, which declared that the Act contravened Article 14 of the Constitution and was, therefore, invalid. The State Government considered the matter afresh in consultation with the Government of India and it was decided that land reform, being such an important social measure, could not be

further delayed on account of fruitless legislations and that the Constitution should make a more specific provision so that such legislations could not be challenged. The Bill called the Constitution (First Amendment) Bill, 1951 was accordingly introduced in Parliament by the Prime Minister of India, which *inter alia* provided for certain amendment to Article 31 of the Constitution. The Bill was ultimately passed by Parliament and was enacted with assent of the President. The Act provided *inter alia* that Bihar Land Reforms Act nor any of the provisions thereof would be deemed or even to have become void on the ground that it took away or abridged any of the rights conferred by any provisions of Part III, and not with standing any judgment, decree or order of any Court or tribunal contrary, the Act would continue enforced.

Some of the landlords challenged the competence of Parliament to amend the Constitution and the Supreme Court issued injunction against taking over the estates under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 till the validity of the constitutional amendment had been decided. The Supreme Court ultimately rejected the application of the landlords and unanimously held that the constitutional amendment was valid.

Some of the landlords took the matter again to the Supreme Court but subsequently the Supreme Court upheld the provision of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

The Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 came into force on the 25th September 1950. Steps for taking over the *zamindaris* started from November, 1951, and proceeded according to a phased programme. In the first phase large intermediary interests with a gross annual income exceeding Rs. 50,000 each vested in the State by the issue of individual notifications. According to this notification 107 intermediary interests with gross annual asset of Rs. 50,000 and more of Bhagalpur district vested in the State. The statement of these estates were as follows :—

Sl. no.	Name of estate.	Number of intermediaries in the State.	Year of vesting.
1	Kumar Shyamanand Sinha and others 8 annas Patti, Banaili Raj.	19	1952
2	Kumar Krishnanand Sinha and others 0-3-6 Patti, Banaili Raj.	5	1952
3	Pandit Bhimnath Mishra and others 3 annas Patti, Banaili Raj.	12	1952
4	Rani Ramabati and others 0-1-6 Patti, Banaili Raj.	2	1952
5	Mahashay Amar Nath Ghosh	1	1952
6	Abhoy Kumar Sinha and others	9	1952

Sl. no.	Name of estate.		Number of intermediaries in the State.	Year of vesting.
7	Rai Kumar Sinha and others ..	..	6	1951
8	Surendra Mohan Sinha and others	..	7	1952
9	Sudhindranarain Sinha and others ..	..	14	1952
10	Ardhendra Narain Sinha and others	..	5	1952
11	K. Lal, S. Lall and others ..	..	12	1951
12	Bhagwat Saran Das	..	1	1953
13	Surja Mohan Thakur and others ..	..	3	1951
14	Naresh Mohan Thakur and others	..	6	1952
15	Keshab Mohan Thakur and others	..	3	1951
16	Raghunandan Lal Trust Estate ..	..	1	1952
17	Thakur Chandra Narayan Deo (Lakamipur)	..	1	1952
			107	

In the second and third phases a good number of estates were vested in the State by individual notifications but immense difficulty was experienced in acquiring, by process of individual notifications. The number of smaller intermediary interests in the State was considerably large, and provision was accordingly made in the Bihar Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1953 (Bihar Act XX of 1954), for taking over all the estates and tenures within a particular area by issue of a single notification. Accordingly all the remaining estates in Bhagalpur district were taken over by the State in 1956. There were as many as 10,203 big and small *zamindars* in the district on the eve of *zamindari* abolition.

The Land Reforms Act is the fore-runner of other reforms which are on the anvil in connection with the problem of land distribution, regulation of rent, co-operative farming, etc. After the complete abolition of intermediaries, it will naturally be necessary to enact tenancy reforms in order to give full security of tenure to the tenants and to stop the various types of evictions and evictments which may have been perpetrated by the ex-landlords. Some statutory measures as stated before have been taken to stop such evictions. Personal cultivation has also to be regulated. A ceiling on agricultural holdings is likely to be fixed sometime or other as a necessary corollary to the land reforms movement. The movement of co-operative farming has to be popularised.

There should be a proper and efficient administration for implementing the land laws so that the difficulties and harassment to those who are the beneficiaries are reduced to the minimum. There has to be a clean administration particularly at the village level.

Agency and Mode of Management

As a result of the abolition of the *zamindari*, collection of land revenue has assumed great importance. Prior to the abolition of *zamindaris* in this State except a few Khasmahals owned by Government there was no revenue establishment of field staff below the subdivisional level. In the Government Khasmahals, however, the revenue administration used to be carried on by the Collector with the assistance of a small band of revenue officials, viz., the Khasmahal Officer, Khasmahal Tahsildar, Patwari and Gorait, etc. Since the number of Khasmahals in Bhagalpur district as stated elsewhere was negligible, the number of revenue staff in the district was meagre to cope with the revenue collection. The outgoing intermediaries used to employ their own field agency for the management of their estates. On the abolition of *zamindaris*, however, it became imperative on the part of Government to set up an adequate revenue establishment of field staff to cope with the vast increase of work-load in connection with the management of the vested estates and tenures.

For realisation of rent and other revenue purposes the district has been divided into 210 *halkas*. A *karamchari* has been placed in charge of a *halka*. *Halka* is a unit of ten villages or more. The main duties of the *karamcharis* are collection of rent, maintenance of registers and accounts, submission of reports and returns, maintenance of agricultural statistics, execution of improvement works of vested estates and enquiries relating to mutations, *ad-interim* payment and allied work. Several *halkas* make a circle or *anchal*. Above the rank of the *karamchari* is the Circle Inspector, one for each Circle or *Anchal* who makes detailed supervision over the work of the *karamcharis*. Both *karamcharis* and Circle Inspectors are non-gazetted Government servants.

Next in the rank is the Block Development Officer, Anchal Adhikari and Circle Officer, one for each block or anchal or circle respectively. They are of gazetted rank. In Bhagalpur district there are 15 blocks and 6 anchals. They are entrusted with the revenue work. They supervise the work of the Circle Inspector and the *karamchari*. A Deputy Collector Incharge Land Reforms and Development is in charge of land reforms and other allied work in the subdivision, i.e., one each in the Sadar and Banka subdivisions. He is under the supervision and control of the Subdivisional Officer. An Additional Collector with his headquarters at Bhagalpur exercises an over-all supervision over the detailed work of revenue administration in the district, subject to the general control of the Collector of the district and the Commissioner of the Division. At the State level there is the Land Reforms Commissioner who is the administrative head and supervises the work in respect of vested estates and tenures. Thus from the *halka* to the State level there is a net-work of revenue officers doing the

revenue work in his respective jurisdiction under the supervision of the immediate superior officer.

There is one Additional Collector, two Deputy Collectors Incharge of Land Reforms and Development, 23 Circle Inspectors (two leave reserve) and 231 (21 leave reserve) *Karamcharis* in the district.

Under the proviso to the section 13 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 Gram Panchayats may by general or special order, be entrusted with the management of vested estates and tenures on suitable terms and conditions.

The fundamental idea behind it is to revive the age-old institution to its ancient glory and make decentralisation in true sense of the term. By this the village assembly is to become the full-fledged administrative unit.

The Gram Panchayats have been formed recently and have not yet covered the whole area. Gram Panchayats are still in the process of evolution and development and as such it was considered proper to start with the entrustment of rent collection work only to selected Gram Panchayats at the first instance. For this purpose, the Gram Sevaks are trained in rent collection work. The following statement will show the number of Gram Panchayats entrusted with rent collection work :—

	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.	1961-62.
Sadar Subdivision ..	..	2	7	10	20	25	122
Banka Subdivision ..	1	4	11	14	23	32	132
Total in the district ..	1	6	18	24	43	57	254

Field Bujharat Operations

The *zamindari* abolition brought in its wake a great volume of revenue work the most important of which is the field *bujharat*. The field *bujharat* operations were undertaken in 1954 with the object of (1) preparing a reliable rent-roll, and (*ii*) collecting information—(*a*) for assessment of final compensation, (*b*) for fixation of rent on the *khas* lands of the ex-intermediaries, and (*c*) for settlement of available waste lands with Harijans, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. This task became all the more necessary as the *zamindars* did not make over all their *zamindari* papers like rent-rolls, etc. On the eve of *zamindari* abolition a large number of settlements and sales had taken place which were left

unaccounted for. The local officials have been instructed that as soon as the field *bujharat* of a village is completed, the present total village area and rental should be compared with the last settlement records, and the difference between the two should be accounted for, that the *khas* lands of the ex-intermediaries as well as other *kabil-lagan* land should be assessed to rent and that the continuous *khatian* and the tenant's ledger should be re-written on the basis of the field *bujharat*. The whole object of the field *bujharat* is thus two-fold, firstly, the aim is to see that every plot of land in each village is accounted for and the rents due in respect of the plots, for which rents are payable, are collected from those who are in possession; the second purpose is to collect the relevant data for assessment of compensation under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

According to the prescribed procedure the field *bujharat* work is done villagewise and each *karamchari* is in charge of the operation in his *Halka* under the direct control of the Circle Officer or Anchal Adhikari. The *bujharat* of the *khatians* in a village is conducted in a serial order, beginning with the first tenants' *khata* having the largest holding. The work covers on examination of—(*i*) the Tenants' *Khatian*, (*ii*) the *Bakasat Khatian*, (*iii*) the *Gairmazrua Malik Khatian*, and (*iv*) *Gairmazrua Am Khatian*. The overall progress in respect of *bujharat* operations in Bhagalpur district up to 31st December, 1957 is as follows* :—

Total no. of villages in the district.	Total no. of villages in which field *bujharat* had been completed by the *karamcharis*.	No. of villages in which verification was completed by—		
		Circle Inspector.	Circle Officer or Anchal Adhikari.	Deputy Collector I/c Land Reforms and Development.
2,808	2,718(98.8%)	882	600	327

The veracity of the *bujharat* conducted by the *karamcharis* had been challenged by various sections of the public. Supplementary *bujharat* operations were started to supplement the instructions given originally for field and *khewat bujharats*. The following statement will show the progress made as per

* Vide Appendix III of Consolidated Report on the Land Reforms Act of the State of Bihar for 1952-53 to 1956-57 published in 1961.

supplementary *bujharat* instructions up to March, 1962:—

Total no of villages in the district (minus Sabour and Jagdishpur Anchals).	No. of villages in which *Bujharat* had been conducted by the *karamcharis*.	Verification completed by —	
		Circle Inspector.	Anchal Adhikari.
2,521	2,231	1,716	1,245

Compensation

The Land Reforms Act had provision for payment of compensation to the landlords. *Ad interim* payments for the period from the date of vesting to the date of payment of compensation are to be made to the outgoing intermediaries under section 33 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act at 3 per cent per annum of the approximate amount of compensation not exceeding Rs. 50,000 and at 2½ per cent per annum exceeding Rs. 50,000 subject to a maximum of Rs. 62,000 per annum. The following statement will show the progress of *ad-interim* payments made under section 33 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, along with the cost of management and cost of improvement of the vested estates from 1955-56 to 1960-61:—

Year.	*Ad-interim* compensation.	Cost of management.	Cost of improvement
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1955-56	1,52,896	3,77,258	1,52,000
1956-57	5,10,561	5,79,565	1,20,473
1957-58	9,00,134	6,52,463	2,29,993
1958-59	8,63,066	6,65,192	1,01,679
1959-60	10,20,000	6,97,977	65,467
1960 61	11,17,549	9.93,700	44,666

The progress of the payment of compensation has been rather poor as the administration has been much handicapped by want of papers.

Consolidation of holdings

Fragmentation of holdings is a great impediment to the development of agriculture. An average size of cultivated plot is too small which obstructs the advanced operational purposes in agriculture.

A scheme of consolidation of holdings based on a spot study of the Punjab scheme was, therefore, considered as *sine qua non* for promotion of agriculture in Bihar. Accordingly the Bihar Consolidation of Holdings and Prevention of Fragmentation Act, 1956 was passed which came into force in Bhagalpur district from the 15th September, 1957.

Two blocks, viz., Sabour and Jagdishpur in Sadar Subdivision have been hitherto notified for consolidation purposes. The total number of villages in which the notification has been promulgated is 360. On the issue of such notification, no transfer of land can be registered without the permission of the Consolidation Officer. This restriction has been imposed to prevent any further fragmentation of holdings.

After a village is notified, a Village Advisory Committee is constituted, which consists of, amongst others, members of the Executive Committee of the Gram Kutchery and representatives of *raiyats*, under-*raiyats* and landless labourers of the village. The Consolidation Officer consults the Committee in the matter of fixing the market value of land, etc., preparing the draft scheme of consolidation and fixing the compensation, etc.

The actual work of consolidation of holdings starts with the preparation of up-to-date records-of-rights and maps in accordance with the procedure prescribed for survey and settlement operations.

The progress so far (April, 1962) achieved on the various stages of consolidation scheme is as follows ;—

(A) *Revision of maps and records of rights.*—(1) Kistwar Khanapuri have been completed in 249 villages and in 18 villages the work is in progress.

(2) Attestation has been completed in 234 villages and in 8 villages the work is in progress.

(3) Draft publication u/s. 103-A of Bihar Tenancy Act has been completed in respect to 221 villages and in 5 villages he work is in progress.

(B) *Preparation of consolidation scheme.*—(1) Preparation of Register of Land—The registers of land of 168 villages have been completed, in 18 villages the work in progress.

(2) *Preparation of Draft scheme and Re-partition.*—The scheme of consolidation has been completed in 124 villages where as scheme of outlay in 94 villages was finally completed up to January, 1961. whose delivery of possession according to new check has been given to the tenants. Further in 14 villages the scheme of consolidation is in progress.

Measures to prevent subdivision and fragmentation of holdings

It has been laid down u/s 27 and 31 of the Bihar Consolidation of Holdings Act, that no person to whom a holding has been allotted under scheme of consolidation shall transfer or deal with such holding or any part thereof so as to create a fragment. For these restrictions the tenants are feeling hardship as they cannot sell any area according to their wish and the market value of their land is also lowered due to these restrictions. There might be some alternative arrangement for financing them on behalf of Government in form of loan readily available and separately kept for their demand.

RECENT AGRARIAN MOVEMENT

Bhoodan

The present *Bhoodan* movement which has been launched by Shri Acharya Vinoba Bhave, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi is not purely an agrarian movement but a synthesis of social, economic and mental revolution. It aims to solve the agrarian, social and economic disparity of the nation by peaceful means. *Yagna* is a Sanskrit word which means sacrifice. Violence or compulsion is antithesis of sacrifice. Vinobaji wants to bring parity between "haves" and "haves not" by peaceful method. The lands donated in *Bhoodan* is settled with the landless agricultural labourers.

To facilitate the work of the *bhoodanis* the Government had passed the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1954 which provides for donation of lands in connection with the *Bhoodan Yagna* initiated by Shri Acharya Vinoba Bhave and settlement of such lands with landless persons. A statutory committee, known as the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Committee, has been established under section 3 of the Act to administer all lands vested in the Committee for the purpose of *Bhoodan Yagna*.

The progress so far achieved cannot be said to be phenomenal. The following statistics will show the progress made so far in the district up to 1961-62 :—

Area of land donated to Bhoodan Yagna Samiti.	Number of families to whom land was given.	Area of land distributed.
1,89,00.88 acres.	4,053	6,697.94 acres.

With a view to safeguard the right, title and interest of the Bhoodan Yagna Committee in the donated lands, suitable instructions were issued to the District Officers stressing the need for

early disposal by the Revenue Officers of the *Danpatras*, by confirmation or supersession, as the case may be. The following statement will show the progress made up to 1962 :—

Danpatras filed by the Committee.	Danpatras confirmed.	Danpatras rejected.	Danpatras pending.
6,406	3,485	2,694	227

Pecuniary help in form of subsidy and loan had been given to holders of *Bhoodan* land for purchase of agricultural implements, oxen and seed, etc., for the cultivation of land. The Government so far (1961-62) have given a sum of Rs. 75,170 as subsidy grant and Rs. 24,220 as loan.

CHAPTER XVIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In the text on Economic Trends and in some other chapters the main occupations of the people of Bhagalpur district have been discussed. A discussion on the occupations other than the main occupations may be made here.

According to 1951 census out of the total population of 1,429,069, 1,158,703 persons or more than 81 per cent are engaged in agriculture and 270,366 or about 19 per cent in non-agricultural occupation*. Both agricultural and non-agricultural population have been subdivided into three sub-classes, viz. (*i*) self-supporting persons, (*ii*) non-earning dependants and (*iii*) earning dependants. They are as follows†:—

AGRICULTURAL CLASSES

Self-supporting persons		Non-earning dependants		Earning dependants	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
239,787	74,393	299,350	467,305	43,853	34,015

NON-AGRICULTURAL CLASSES

Self-supporting persons		Non-earning dependants		Earning dependants	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
51,835	9,080	85,791	108,351	8,065	7,244

The above statistics will indicate the heavy pressure of non-earning dependants in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. This leads to a legitimate conclusion that there is a vast availability of properly unemployed persons in both agricultural and non-agricultural classes. Out of the total agricultural population

**District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur,* published in 1956, Table I.
†Ibid. page. 10 *to* 11 *and* 14 *to* 15.

of 1,158,703 about 27 per cent were self-supporting persons, about 66 per cent non-earning dependants and about 7 per cent earning dependants. In non-agricultural sector the percentages of self-supporting persons, non-earning dependants and earning dependants were 22.2, 71.9 and 5.9 respectively.

A rapid sample survey was made at Sultanganj, a growing township with ample rural features. Sultanganj is also the thana and block headquarters of the same name and is 16 miles west of Bhagalpur. The population is both agricultural and non-agricultural.

The livelihood pattern of Sultanganj according to 1951 District Census Handbook is as follows:—

Total	Persons		Agricultural population	Non-agricultural population
	Males	Females		
4,212	2,244	1,968	1,067	3,145

Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependants.	Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependants.	Cultivating labourers and their dependants	Production (other than cultivation).
748	35	284	454

Commerce.	Transport	Other services and miscellaneous sources.
1,433	174	1,084

The above statement will show the preponderance of non-agricultural population in Sultanganj. There are three mills—one rice, oil and *dal* mill and the other oil mill The first mill (rice, oil and *dal* mill) is a big mill which has the capacity of crushing 750 maunds paddy and 65 maunds mustard-seed in eight hours. The strength of labourers in this mill is 56 who are permanent employees. The other mills employ fewer persons.

There are 30 grain *golas* and 35 retail grain shops. There are about 20 retail cloth dealers. There are a few medicine shops. There is a large distillery which employs a large number of hands. It has to be remembered that the men at the actual concerns form only a small percentage of the people engaged in these trades. But there are middle-men, weighers, carters, porters, crushers, etc., who are all directly connected with them. The figures quoted above obviously do not include them.

Besides agriculture, industry, trade and commerce, there are persons engaged in other miscellaneous occupations. Some of them are as follows ;—

(1) *Health and Medical Services.*—About 100 persons are found to be engaged. They include doctors, compounders, dressers, nurses, *dais*, male and female servants, sweepers in the hospitals and dispensaries besides the practising *vaids*, quacks, etc.

Education Services.—Sultanganj has one degree college with about 30 lecturers, one high school (17 teachers), one middle school (6 teachers), one girls' middle school (6 mistresses) and an upper primary school and a library. There are other men on the staff in various positions. The number will certainly exceed 150 persons.

Public Administration.—Sultanganj is the headquarters of a block-*cum-anchal* and a police-station of the same name. In all there are 116 employees including the Block Development Officer-*cum-Anchaladhikari*. The police strength of the Sultanganj police-station is now 14—one Inspector of Police, one Sub-Inspector of Police, one Assistant Sub-Inspector and 11 Constables. The town outpost (T.O.P.) contains 13—one Havildar and 12 Constables and the *anchal* force 6. Thus there are 34 employees in the police service at Sultanganj but this is subject to fluctuation.

The State Government in the Industries Department have located an institutional centre of cluster type at Sultanganj in 1962 which would impart training in blacksmithy, carpentry, leather goods making and tailoring and cutting, etc. Each section will have 12 trainees and the course of training is of one year's duration. When running properly there will be about 100 persons engaged in this.

Employees of the Union Government.—Sultanganj has a railway station of the Eastern Railway with about 30 employees. There are railway porters, etc., who are not exactly employees. There is a posts and telegraphs office which has 40 employees.

Domestic and Personal Services.—The domestic servants are mostly employed by the businessmen. The number of domestic

servants will certainly exceed 500 persons. It is reported that there is a scarcity of domestic servants here. About one thousand local coolies work at the Jamalpur Railway Workshop, for which several up and down coolie trains move to and from Sultanganj and Jamalpur daily. There are 15 hotels of low standard which employ about 50 servants.

There are a few shaving saloons. Besides, local barbers daily visit different *muhallas* in Sultanganj for employment. About 50 males and 5 females are engaged in this profession.

There is no laundry. The local washermen wash the clothes in the river Ganga. About 35 males and 25 females are engaged in this service. Besides washermen there are 20 tailors.

Sultanganj is typical and shows a surplus unemployed population. The vast field of unemployed labour has also been discussed in the Report of the Bihar Unemployment Committee, Volume I. This Committee was set up by the State Government of Bihar and had worked for years.

In the table which deals with an estimate of the redundant farm population in Bihar in 1951, the details of Bhagalpur are as follows:—

Cultivated land (net area including fallow in thousand acres).	Self-supporting cultivators (in thousand) of,—			
	Owned land.	Unowned land.	Cultivating labourers.	Total.
1,043	154.3	57.8	97.9	310.0

Size of a subsistence holding. (acres)	No. of such holdings in thousand.	No. of adults at 2 per holding in thousand.	Redundant adult population in thousand.
5	130.5	261.0	149.0

Thus the report estimated that the redundant farm population of the district is 149.0 thousand consisting of adults only.

Regarding urban unemployment problem the Committee had surveyed 500 families of Bhagalpur and found as many as 244 families affected by the problem of unemployment. The total number of persons affected was 4,167 (2,091 males and 2,076 females). The Committee found 1,139 males and 1,135 females between the age of 16 to 60. The persons wholly unemployed were 280 (203 males and 77 females), partially unemployed persons were 163 (143 males and 20 females) and totally affected persons 443 (346 males and 97 females).

The report of the Bihar Unemployment Committee mentions the estimated population and persons affected by unemployment on the 1st May, 1954 which shows that the estimated number of families in Bhagalpur were 14,663 out of which the estimated number of affected families were 7,156. The estimated population in families showed the total of 122,218 (61,329 males and 60,889 females).

The estimated population in families as shown between the age group 16—60 was 66,697 (33,407 males and 33,290 females). The estimated number of unemployed persons was 8,212 (5,954 males and 2,258 females), partially employed persons were 4,784 (4,194 males and 590 females). The number of illiterate persons, i.e., totally unemployed was 12,996 (10,148 males and 2,848 females).

Regarding the incidence of unemployment in urban areas the percentage of employable males to the male population was 54.47 and of female population 54.67. The percentage of adult group (males and females) to total population was 54.67. The percentage of affected persons to the total persons in the employable age-group in the family surveyed was 19.48 and the percentage of males wholly unemployed to employable males was 17 82 and of females 7.78; while the percentage of males partially employed to employable males was 12.55 and females 1.76.

This leads us to a discussion of the various types of miscellaneous occupations which are usually found in the urban areas. These miscellaneous occupations absorb only a fringe of population but their importance is considerable. The persons employed in miscellaneous occupations with their background of education, technical skill and leadership play a very important part in the economic and social structure of the people. Some of them are covered below.

Public Administration.—The District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur, 1956, does not mention the figures employed in public administration separately. It has mentioned "Health, Education and Public Administration", under which 2,965 males and 470 females were employed. Their classifications were as follows*:—

**District Census handbook, Bhagalpur*, published in 1956, pp. 58-60. (The figures are of 1951 Census.)

Serial no.		Employers		Employees		Independent workers		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Health and Medical Services.	87	47	564	194	826	112	1,477	353
2.	Educational Services and Research.	..	..	548	112	18	5	566	117
3.	Police (other than village watchmen).	..	..	208	..	..	..	208	..
4.	Village officers and servants (including village watchmen).	..	..	137	..	..	..	137	..
5.	Employees of Municipalities and Local Boards.	..	..	140	..	..	..	140	..
6.	Employees of State Government.	..	..	305	..	..	..	305	..
7.	Employees of Union Government.	..	..	132	..	..	..	132	..

These figures of 1951 Census are clearly under-estimated. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that public administration, after independence in 1947 and especially due to execution of enormous development projects since the launching of the First Five-Year Plan in 1951, underwent a great expansion. In a Welfare State the public administration covers a very wide field of public activities. As such the number of persons employed in public administration has considerably increased. Since the District Census Handbook of 1961 has not yet been published, it would be hazardous to come to any definite conclusion. An effort has been made to give the figures of the employees of the few departments. In chapters on Law, Order and Justice and General Administration the strength of police and village watchman and the gazetted officers engaged in public administration had already been covered. The strength of non-gazetted staff under the Bhagalpur Collectorate only in 1962 (June) is reported to be 1,278 †The break-up figures were as follows:—

Clerical staff 437, Karamcharies 231, Welfare Inspectors 15, Supply Inspectors 19, Circle Inspectors 36, Village Level Workers 133, Amins 30, Muharrirs 2, Draftsman-*cum*-Surveyor 2 and Gram Sevaks 373. The other sections, *viz.*, Registration, Excise and Survey Office, etc., have not been included here.

†The figures have been collected from the Bhagalpur Collectorate Office.

In local bodies also there has been an enormous increase in the staff. The number of the employees of the municipalities and local boards in 1951 as stated in the table was only 140. The strength of the employees of the District Board, Bhagalpur in 1962 is reported to be 288 in non-teaching and 1,503 in teaching sectors. The number of the employees of Bhagalpur Municipality is reported to be 1,286*.

The District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur in the table had mentioned 208 members of the police force excluding village watchmen in 1951. The total strength of the police (Inspector to Constable) in 1956 was 944.† The present strength of police and village chaukidars has been given in chapter on Law, Order and Justice.

In development sections, viz., Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Public Works Department, Irrigation, Public Health Engineering, Industry and Labour, Education, Medical and Public Health, etc., the increase is equally striking. The above table of 1951 does not include the employees of the Union Government working in railways and postal communications. There were 442 males and 18 females and 489 males and 27 females in railways and postal services respectively in the district in 1951. The postal and railway communications have expanded a lot and consequently the number of employees in both the services has considerably increased. Besides railway and postal services there are offices of the Central Excise and Income-tax under the Union Government. It appears that there also the number of the employees has to a great extent increased. The present figures of persons employed by them and other Central Government services could not be obtained.

Learned professions

Learned professions include lawyers and their clerks, authors, journalists, sculptors, architects, photographers, musicians, dancers, doctors, teachers and priests, etc.

An increasing number of persons has been following the profession of law. The starting of a Law College recently at Bhagalpur will also contribute to an increase in the number of lawyers. The profession includes lawyers and mukhtars, their clerks, petition writers and touts, etc. The influence of the progressive members of this class on the society is very considerable and has been discussed elsewhere.

The Bhagalpur Municipality has recently imposed Professional tax on the persons living within the limits of the municipality and work for gain. According to the assessment of the municipality in 1962 the number of assessees under Professional tax come to 3,099 out of which 213 are practising lawyers and doctors, 369 employees of the State and Union Government and of private

*These figures have been collected from the offices of Bhagalpur District Boar and Municipality.

†Bihar Statistical Handbook 1956, p. 177.

concerns, and 2,517 are businessmen. There are reasons to believe that many taxable persons have escaped the imposition. But the overwhelming majority of businessmen in Bhagalpur is a clear proof of Bhagalpur being a large business centre. The incidence of trade and commerce is bound to go on increasing and the number under business will multiply rapidly.

Domestic and personal services.—The domestic and personal services have been included also in the District Census Handbook, Bhagalpur under the division Services not elsewhere specified in which 13,630 males and 2,496 females were found to be engaged. * The break-up figures in 1951 census were as follows:—

—	Employers		Employees		Independent workers		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
I. Services otherwise unclassified.	..	..	3,608	713	231	75	3,839	788
II. Domestic services.	..	..	1,855	435	1,673	404	3,528	839
III. Barbers and beauty shops.	82	..	380	..	1,884	163	2,346	163
IV. Laundries and laundries services.	75	..	211	11	2,066	313	2,352	324
V. Hotels, restaurants, eating houses.	81	..	146	..	53	..	280	..

Domestic services include cook, kitchen help, domestic servant, water carrier, etc. The census of 1951 enumerated 3,528 males and 839 females engaged in domestic services in the district. This appears to be an under-estimate.

Barbers as stated before are found all over the district. Their number is also an under-estimate.

Like barbers, washermen are also found all over the district and they are paid in kind in the rural areas. The number of washermen appears to be much more than what is mentioned.

The hotels and restaurants throughout the district are of ordinary or poor standard. But their number is on the increase. Cheap eating houses are becoming common and serve hundreds of people everyday. In 1951 census only 280 males were enumerated

* *District Census Handbook*, published in 1957, pp. 61—64.

in hotels, restaurants and eating houses. By now the number has gone up very considerably. The scarcity of cooks and servants and the floating population that comes to Bhagalpur city and other subdivisional towns everyday has led to the increase of hoteliers.

A large number of hotels and restaurants have been started by the displaced Punjabis and some sweetmeat shops by the displaced Bengalees. The number of tea-stalls, *pan-biri* shops has very considerably increased.

Tailoring is the occupation of a large number of people throughout the district. Unfortunately the number of tailors has not been mentioned in the census of 1951. Their number is fairly large in Bhagalpur, Colgong, Sultanganj, Banka, Naugachia and the other townships. They are also found in the rural areas as well. No tailor is found without work. The profession is exclusively confined to males. Tailors are mostly Muhammadans. It will be hazardous to guess the number of tailors but it will surely be near about 1,000 persons.

The above discussions will show that occupations other than the main occupations which are rather loosely described as miscellaneous occupations do not keep engaged more than a very small percentage of the people. The discussion of the Unemployment Committee also strengthens the conclusion that the incidence of unemployment is very large and the district can very well allow emigration of a large population for at least seasonal labour outside. It is rather peculiar that the unemployed labouring classes would rather stay back in Bhagalpur district with one meal a day than go out to the tea districts in Assam which can absorb a good number of them on permanent or temporary jobs. The neighbouring district of Purnea has a large seasonal immigration of labourers for the cutting of jute but these immigrants come from the districts of North Bihar and very few from Bhagalpur district. The unemployed labouring classes of Bhagalpur do not normally cut across the district frontiers and go to Purnea for such seasonal occupations.

A certain percentage of the available unemployed population could also be usefully employed in operations in connection with marketing if the market is properly organised. The census figures do not indicate clearly the number of people that are engaged in handling marketable produce as apart from the people who actually produce marketable goods. Probably the people engaged in the operations in connection with market operations are vaguely clubbed under business operations or under some other nomenclature. It has to be remembered that the rules under the Bihar Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1960 have not been promulgated by the Government and hence conditions in the market are still allowed to be moving on traditional lines. It may bear repetition that Bhagalpur district is quite self-sufficient in paddy, just sufficient in wheat and is a surplus district in gram and maize. The district is slightly in deficit in pulses, oil-seeds, etc., as their

consumption in maunds per year is 6,00,000 while the production in maunds 4,90,060. There are 21 markets, 41 *hats*, and 12 fairs in Sadar Subdivision while Banka subdivision has 8 markets, 58 *hats*, and 7 fairs. Marketable surplus for rice is 33—37 per cent, for maize 40—45 per cent, for wheat 45—50 per cent and gram 40—42 per cent. The marketing seasons for rice, maize, wheat and gram are October—April, August—March, April—September respectively. The important markets of the district as mentioned before are Bhagalpur, Sultanganj, Colgong, Pirpainty, Naugachia, Jagdishpur and Barahat. Facilities for storage are available at Bhagalpur, Colgong, Pirpainty, Naugachia and Sultanganj. The State Warehousing Corporation has been running a State Warehouse at Bhagalpur from January, 1961 for proper storage of agricultural produce and for affording credit facilities. The present storage capacity of the warehouse is about 6,000 bags.

It is felt that during the marketing seasons for the marketable surplus in rice, maize, wheat and gram there could be more people engaged if better warehouse facilities are offered and marketing intelligence are disseminated. There is no reason why warehouses cannot be set up in the private sector.

At present there is no regulation of commodities for fixing up of market area and hardly much concrete work has been made for market development. There is no study of market prices, price trends and their publicity. Marketing conditions and practices are too traditional and conventional and there is no doubt that they are in the hands of coteries who would not admit freely other people within their groups. There is a clear avenue for absorption of more men in this line.

A partial solution of the unemployment problem of Bhagalpur district lies in starting some large industries. According to the Banking Enquiry Committee of Bihar and Orissa in 1930, the principal business in Bhagalpur was in piece-goods, grain and seeds. After the lapse of 30 years the principal business still remains the same. The same committee report had pointed out that 50 years back the value of the silk business in Bhagalpur town was about four to five lakhs only. In 1930 when the Enquiry Committee Report was published the total value of silk business in Bhagalpur town had come up to Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 lakhs. In the last 30 years there must have been a great increase in sale output. Figures for correct assessment of the current outputs are, however, not available.

The closure of the Joint Steamer Company had led to a decline in water-borne trade. The Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Board Transport sponsored by India Government has been trying to tackle the problem. The main commodities of inward traffic are grain and seeds, coconut oil, sugarcandy, miscellaneous goods, machinery, pulses, filter cloth, iron, linseed, turmeric, consumer

goods, onions, and castor oil. The outward traffic consists of grain and seeds, *gur*, castor seeds, linseed, iron, *kalai*, mustard oil, consumer goods, sugar, oils, and wooden goods. The Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Board Transport had also opened a station at Bhagalpur but owing to the undercutting of business by the small boatmen they have not been able to make much headway. Their station at Colgong is better patronised. The operations of the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Board Transport will surely revive riverine trade and give occupation to a good number of men.

The industrial potential of the district has been discussed elsewhere. A district with this type of exports and imports which has been partially revived by the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Board Transport and where the commercial importance has gone up tremendously due to the development of railways and roadways is surely capable of developing some large industries like textile mills, silk factories, cold storages, sugar mills, ice factories, etc. Bhagalpur has got quite a number of very substantial businessmen. There will not be dearth of finance. There is ample space available near the town for starting some large industries.

There are also avenues for medium and small industries. Bhagalpur has excellent possibilities for an assembling unit, and Engineering concern with facilities for fabrication and making of nuts, bolts and rivets, a re-rolling mill, etc. A large well-equipped automobile repairing shop could easily run here as Bhagalpur is the centre through which a large number of automobiles pass.

During the slack agricultural season a portion of the agricultural population could be employed in canning fruit. Bhagalpur is rich in mango and other garden fruits. There was a bumper mango crop in 1962. Even in Bhagalpur, the district headquarters, which has a good link of roads the famous local variety of *zardalu* mango was sold for three to four rupees per hundred. The local variety of *maldah* and *bombai* mangoes was sold four to six rupees per hundred. This low price at the peak period of supply of mangoes in 1962 could not benefit the owners of mango orchards. The middlemen alone profited by investing money and taking risks and sent mangoes by trucks to Jamshedpur, Delhi, Calcutta and even to distant places in Maharashtra. Had there been a fruit canning industry much of this mango crop could have been held back for the future and even for export to foreign countries. In Sabour Agriculture Institute there is a small unit under the Industries Department making fruit preserves and syrups. A scheme for canning fruits has not yet been experimented upon and there is no reason why it cannot succeed. In certain places of the country there are community fruit preservation centres where housewives take their surplus garden produce like goose-berry, guavas, etc. and get them canned and learn the process of canning which is easy to follow.

Another economic potentiality of the district is fisheries in which a percentage of surplus population of the district could be employed. Fish cultivation can be much developed if properly guided. The Ganga Survey Unit of the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute has, for some years past, been observing the species composition of the gangetic fish landed at Bhagalpur. Their data show the seasonal and annual fluctuations in fish abundance according to variety of fish for all commercial species of fish marketed here. There is a proposal to further intensify the research activities of the department of Bhagalpur with a view to acquire, to a fuller extent, an understanding of the population dynamics of economic varieties of fish. In the new programme of work natural breeding grounds of fish have to be located and charted and fish survival in the early stages of the development of fish upto their recruitment into commercial fishery, have to be biometrically studied. Such modern tools of fishery research as are proposed to be applied to the field are likely to have a great significance of the gangetic harvest much in the same way as a meteorologist forecast the weather with which is ultimately connected the agricultural production of the land.

A very large quantity of small fish which is particularly suited for being dried and salted is sold daily at a much lower price. Drying and salting fish is an occupation in portions of Singhbhum and Purnea districts only. In Darbhanga district also small species of lobster (*jinglia* or *chingri*) is salted and consumed. There is a good market for dried and salted fish in West Bengal with which Bhagalpur is connected both by rail and roads.

Bhagalpur can very well give occupation to a large number of men by the starting of a large milk colony and dairy farm on the lines of Aarey Milk Colony of Bombay or Haringhata Colony of Calcutta. The northern portion of Bhagalpur is noted for *ghee* and butter and a large quantity of milk, curd and *chhena* come to Bhagalpur by Mandar-Bhagalpur trains. Pirpainty and Mirzachowki send out large quantity of *chhena* to West Bengal, particularly to Bolpur and Burdwan. There is ample scope for developing the industry of milk products under scientific processes.

Sheep and cow-breeding could also be well encouraged. As will be apparent from the census of 1931 Bhagalpur district has a large number of Ahirs or Goalas but unfortunately the number of Ahirs who follow their traditional occupation is getting smaller and smaller. It appears that the number of cows in Bhagalpur has also decreased in the census of 1956 which enumerated 179,935 cows as against 203,490 in 1951*. She-buffaloes were 48,178 in 1951 which rose to 60,398 in 1956. Thus the

Bihar Statistical Handbook, 1956.

increase of 12,220 in she-buffaloes to some extent compensated the decrease in cows. Moreover the average she-buffaloes give more milk than the average cow.

Like cows and buffaloes rearing of sheep and goats is also an occupation subsidiary to agriculture. Its importance lies in the fact that sheep and goats are mainly reared by the agricultural labourers who have not got enough land to plough. We have seen that the number of landless labourers in the district is fairly large. A fair percentage of them can be economically engaged in rearing sheeps and goats. The price of meat in Bhagalpur varies from Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8-0 per *seer*; while at Patna meat is available at Rs. 2-4-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per *seer* (1962).

Eggs and chicken in Bhagalpur are slightly more expensive than Patna. There is much more scope in keeping poultry in the average household in Bhagalpur than in Patna. There is a State poultry farm in Bhagalpur now and there are subsidiary poultry stations at different places. These poultries are meant for distributing eggs for hatching purposes and most of the eggs distributed for these purposes are consumed at the table. Poultry industry in this district has potentiality of development. It is rather unfortunate that low income and small income-group people are not turning to the keeping of goats, sheeps and birds within the house plot to supplement their diet or income.

In the Third Five-Year Plan the State Government has decided to encourage the keeping of more pigs. There is an idea of pig utilisation by the preparation of pork, ham and bacon. The number of pigs in 1951 was 14,513 which came down to 10,885 in 1956. Pigs are only reared by Dusadhs, Doms and Halkhors. The number of pig rearers approximately come to between 1,000 to 1,500 in the district. Pigs are reared and kept in a very crude and unwholesome unhygienic manner. Under proper guidance with the necessary tools and plants there is no reason why good pork, ham and bacon cannot be made locally. At present the Dusadhs do prepare some kind of pork, ham but follow the traditional method which is not clean.

The Bhagalpur Co-operative Milk Union helped by the State and the Central Government has started functioning from 1956. In 1961-62 2,10,654 litres of milk and 35,218 litres of milk products were sold. There are three milk supply booths in the town. Recently a pasteurisation plant has been installed.

APPENDIX I

The following villages have a population of more than two thousand persons according to 1951 Census (District Census Hand Book, Bhagalpur, 1956):—

P.-S. Sultanganj

1. Sultanganj.
2. Tilakpur.
3. Mirhati.
4. Sirdauri.
5. Masdi.
6. Gangania.
7. Udnadih.
8. Kumaitha.

P.-S. Shahkund

1. Khaira.
2. Karanpur.
3. Pair Dominia Milik.
4. Gobrain.
5. Sajaur.

P.-S. Bhagalpur Muffasil

1. Fatehpur.
2. Ramnagar Arazi Shankarpur Kodwar
3. Mamlakha.
4. Ghiha.
5. Agarpur.
6. Khutaha.
7. Habibpur.
8. Puraini.
9. Jagdishpur.
10. Chain Chak.

P.-S. Nathnagar

1. Shahzadpur.
2. Bhaturia.

P.-S. Colgong

1. Shankarpur Khawas.
2. Parmanand Khawas.
3. Kishundaspur.
4. Mohanpur Gaughatta.
5. Sarfuddinpur.
6. Maheshmunda.
7. Ekchari.

P.-S. Gopalpur

1. Bhawanipur.
2. Rangra.
3. Sadhua.
4. Saidpur Dabra.
5. Hazipur Milik.
6. Latra.
7. Mukanpur.
8. Ismailpur.
9. Parbatta.
10. Budhuchak.
11. Tintanga.
12. Madranni Gobindpur Kasauli.

P.-S. Pirpainti

1. Sirmatpur.
2. Khawaspur Milik.
3. Pirpainti.
4. Rifadpur.
5. Pealapur.
6. Gobindpur.
7. Bakharpur.

P.-S. Sonhaula

Tarar

P.-S. Bihpur

1. Nagarpara.
2. Raipur.
3. Jaipur Chuhar.
4. Narainpur.
5. Dharampur Ratti.
6. Hario.
7. Marwa.
8. Jhandapur.
9. Bihpur.
10. Babhangawan.
11. Jairampur urf Lathipur.
12. Sonbarsa.
13. Dudhaila.
14. Mirzapur.

APPENDIX I—*concld.*

P.-S. Naugachhia

1. Maheshpur Madan.
2. Tetari.
3. Manoharpur Kalidas.
4. Pakra.
5. Jamunia.
6. Kharik.
7. Tulshipur Kharik.
8. Telghi.
9. Isapur.
10. Jalalpur.
11. Raghopur.
12. Khagra.
13. Partapnagar.

P.-S. Amarpur

1. Jogi Bagha.
2. Bhatsila.
3. Kumarpur.
4. Mirzapur.
5. Imamnagar.
6. Mahisauta.
7. Iungain.
8. Sultanpur.
9. Paidapur.
10. Dumrawan.
11. Amarpur.
12. Banhara.
13. Bharko.
14. Gorgawan.
15. Bhenra.
16. Subhanpur.
17. Salempur.

P.-S. Katoria

1. Tonapathar.
2. Tola Bora.
3. Chandwari.
4. Barne.
5. Tola Katoria.
6. Chandan, Tola Chandan.
7. Bhorsar.
8. Tola Jamdaha.
9. Tola Kadhar.

P.-S. Belhar

Bara

P.-S. Banka

1. Kojhi.
2. Dudhari.
3. Kakwara.
4. Kakwara tola Katili.
5. Bogria.
6. Kharahara.
7. Sondiha.
8. Ithri.
9. Auria.
10. Bagduma.

P.-S. Dhuraiya

1. Ahiro.
2. Pair

P.-S. Bounsi

1. Pilua.
2. Bausi.
3. Kuraro.
4. Dahua.
5. Kairi.
6. Saruwa.
7. Sukhiabarait.

APPENDIX II

LIST OF *Hats* WITH LOCATION

Serial no.	Names of the Anchals or Blocks	Names of *Hats*	Sadar Subdivision Location	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1	Jagdishpur(Anchal)	Barari *hat* ..	Barari ..	Miscellaneous *hat*.
2	Ditto ..	Mirjan *hat* ..	Mirjanhat ..	Ditto.
3	Ditto ..	Jagdishpur *hat* ..	Jagdishpur ..	Miscellaneous and grains.
4	Ditto ..	Shambhuganj *hat*	Shambhuganj ..	Cattle *hat*.
5	Nathnagar (Anchal)	Nathnagar *hat* ..	Nathnagar ..	Miscellaneous and grains.
6	Ditto ..	Kajraili *hat* ..	Kajraili ..	Miscellaneous.
7	Shahkund (Block) ..	Sajaur *hat* ..	Sajaur ..	Ditto.
8	Ditto ..	Khirni *hat* ..	Khirni ..	Ditto.
9	Ditto ..	Ibrahimpur *hat* ..	Ibrahimpur ..	Ditto.
10	Ditto ..	Duspur *hat* ..	Duspur ..	Ditto.
11	Ditto ..	Samastipur *hat* ..	Samastipur ..	Ditto.
12	Ditto ..	Kaira *hat* ..	Kaira ..	Ditto.
13	Ditto ..	Tahbalnagar *hat*	Tahbalnagar ..	Ditto.
14	Ditto ..	Pachrukhi *hat* ..	Pachrukhi ..	Ditto.
15	Sultanganj (Block)	Akbarnagar *hat*.	Akbarnagar ..	Ditto.
16	Ditto ..	Sultanganj *hat* ..	Sultanganj ..	Ditto.
17	Sabour (Block) ..	Sabour *hat* ..	Choudhrampatti	Ditto.
18	Ditto ..	Sabour Dhandhania *hat*.	Sabour ..	Ditto.
19	Ditto ..	Murban *hat* ..	Murban ..	Ditto.
20	Colgong (Block) ..	Dhurandhar *hat*	Dhurandhar ..	Ditto.
21	Ditto ..	Ekdara *hat* ..	Ekdara ..	Ditto.
22	Ditto ..	Logma *hat* ..	Logma ..	Ditto.
23	Ditto ..	Nandlalpur *hat* ..	Nandlalpur ..	Ditto.
24	Ditto ..	Colgong *hat* ..	Colgong ..	Ditto.
25	Ditto ..	Ekchari *hat* ..	Ekchari ..	Ditto.
26	Ditto ..	Budhuchak *hat* ..	Budhuchak ..	Ditto.
27	Ditto ..	Antichak *hat* ..	Antichak ..	Ditto.

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

Serial no.	Names of the Anchals or Blocks	Names of *Hats*	Sadar Subdivision Location	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
28	Sonhaula (Anchal) ..	Sonhaula *hat* ..	Sonhaula ..	Miscellaneous and cattle.
29	Ditto ..	Chhatpatra *hat* ..	Chhatpatra ..	Ditto.
30	Ditto ..	Shankar *hat* ..	Shankar ..	Ditto.
31	Pirpainty (Block) ..	Pirpainty *hat* ..	Pirpainty ..	Ditto.
32	Ditto ..	Barmasia *hat* ..	Barmasia ..	Ditto.
33	Ditto ..	Bara *hat* ..	Bara ..	Ditto.
34	Bihpur (Block) ..	Babhangama *hat*	Badhangama ..	Ditto.
35	Ditto ..	Jhaudopur *hat* ..	Jhaudopur ..	Ditto.
36	Ditto ..	Bihpur *hat* ..	Bihpur ..	Ditto.
37	Ditto ..	Madhurapur *hat* ..	Madhurapur ..	Ditto.
38	Naugachia (Block) ..	Dholbajja *hat* ..	Dholbajja ..	Ditto.
39	Ditto ..	Kharikk *hat* ..	Kharikk ..	Ditto.
40	Ditto ..	Parbatta *hat* ..	Parbatta ..	Ditto.
41	Ditto ..	Naugachia *hat* ..	Naugachia ..	Ditto.
42	Gopalpur (Block) ..	Sungtia *hat* ..	Sungatia ..	Ditto.
43	Ditto ..	Abbia *hat* ..	Abbia ..	Ditto.
		Banka Subdivision		
44	Banka ..	Banka *hat* ..	Banka ..	Miscellaneous and cattle.
45	Do. ..	Dudhari *hat* ..	Dudhari ..	Ditto.
46	Do. ..	Kakbara *hat* ..	Kakbara ..	Ditto.
47	Do. ..	Dumraon *hat* ..	Dumraon ..	Ditto.
48	Do. ..	Baliamehra *hat* ..	Baliamehra ..	Ditto.
49	Do. ..	Ekoria *hat* ..	Ekoria ..	Ditto.
50	Barahar ..	Barahat *hat* ..	Barahat ..	Ditto.
51	Ditto ..	Pangwara *hat* ..	Pangwara ..	Ditto.

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

Serial no.	Names of the Anchals or Blocks	Names of *Hats*	Sadar Subdivision Location	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
52	Rajaun ..	Punsia *hat* ..	Punsia ..	Miscellaneous.
53	Ditto ..	Rajaun *hat* ..	Rajaun ..	Ditto.
54	Ditto ..	Bamdeo *hat* ..	Bamdeo ..	Ditto.
55	Ditto ..	Nawada *hat* ..	Nawada ..	Ditto.
56	Belhar ..	Sahibganj *hat* ..	Sahibganj ..	Miscellaneous and cattle.
57	Ditto ..	Ranga *hat* ..	Ranga ..	Ditto
58	Shambhuganj (Block)	Shambhuganj *hat*	Shambhuganj ..	Ditto.
59	Ditto ..	Kasba *hat* ..	Kasba ..	Ditto.
60	Ditto ..	Pratapur *hat* ..	Pratapur ..	Ditto.
61	Ditto ..	Bhatsila *hat* ..	Bhatsila ..	Ditto.
62	Katoria (Block) ..	Jamdaha *hat* ..	Jamdaha ..	Ditto.
63	Ditto ..	Jaipur *hat* ..	Jaipur ..	Ditto.
64	Ditto ..	Maniagoro *hat* ..	Maniagoro ..	Ditto.
65	Ditto ..	Nawadih *hat* ..	Nawadih ..	Ditto.
66	Ditto ..	Malhaltau *hat* ..	Malhaltau .	Ditto.
67	Ditto ..	Katoria *hat* .	Katoria ..	Ditto.
68	Ditto ..	Bhitiya *hat* .	Bhitiya ..	Ditto.
69	Ditto ..	Nagazore *hat* ..	Nagazore ..	Ditto.
70	Chanan ..	Bhairoganj *hat* ..	Bhairoganj ..	Ditto.
71	Ditto ..	Chandan *hat* ..	Chandan .	Ditto.
72	Bounsi ..	Bounsi *hat* ..	Bounsi ..	Ditto.
73	Ditto ..	Bhalgore *hat* ..	Bhalgore ..	Ditto.
74	Ditto ..	Phaga *hat* ..	Phaga ..	Ditto.
75	Ditto ..	Jabra *hat* ..	Jabra ..	Ditto.
76	Ditto ..	Bhandarichak *hat*	Bhandarichak ..	Ditto.
77	Dhoraiya (Block) ..	Dhoraiya *hat* ..	Dhoraiya ..	Ditto.
78	Ditto ..	Barahat-Beldiha *hat*	Barahat-Beldiha	Ditto.
79	Ditto ..	Ahiro *hat* ..	Ahiro ..	Ditto.
80	Ditto ..	Bisunpur *hat* ..	Bisunpur ..	Ditto.

APPENDIX II.—*concld.*

Serial no.	Names of the Anchals or Blocks	Names of *Hats*	Sadar Subdivision Location	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
81	Dhoraiya (Block) ..	Assi *hat* ..	Assi ..	Miscellaneous and cattle.
82	Amarpur (Block) ..	Bharko *hat* ..	Bharko ..	Ditto.
83	Ditto ..	Makdumh *hat* ..	Makdumh ..	Miscellaneous.
84	Ditto ..	Amarpur *hat* ..	Amarpur ..	Ditto.
85	Ditto ..	Chiraiya *hat* ..	Chiraiya ..	Ditto.
86	Ditto ..	Hasanthari *hat* ..	Hasanthari ..	Ditto.

List of Melas with Location

Serial no.	Names of the Anchals or Blocks	Names of *Melas*	Location	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
		Sadar Subdivision		
1	Jagdishpur ..	Goroo Dham *Mela*	Nathnagar ..	Mahadeo Temple.
2	Ditto ..	Shahganj Moharam *Mela*.	Ditto ..	
		Banka Subdivision		
3	Gopalpur (Block) ..	*Maghi Purnima Mela*.	Tintanga.	
4	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Eastern side (Tintanga).	
5	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Western side (Tintanga).	
6	Bounsi ..	Bounsi Mela ..	Bounsi.	
7	Amarpur ..	Dhan Kundi *Makar Sankranti Mela*.	Dhan Kundi.	
8	Rajaun ..	Nawada *Mela* ..	Nawada.	

APPENDIX III

CRIME AREA AND POPULATION

Crime	1860		Average of five previous years		Increase		Decrease	
	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Offence against the person ..	372	898	303⅗	616	629⅗	282	..	..
Offence against the property with violence.	23	462	23⅘	79	..	183	4⅘	..
Offence against the property without violence.	1,675	2,043	2,000	2,729	..	..	325	686⅗
Malicious offences against property	71	227	24⅕	46⅗	184	..	..	..
Forgery offence against the property	3	4	32⅕	4⅘	1	..	⅖	⅘
Miscellaneous offences ..	720	1,007	1,003	1,704⅗	..	..	283	697⅗

(Source : Volume no. 456.
Population in 1860—10,96,303
Area—3,426 sq. miles.)

APPENDIX III—*contd.*

Crime	1861 Cases	1861 Persons	Average of five previous years Cases	Average of five previous years Persons	Decrease Cases	Decrease Persons	Increase Cases	Increase Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Offences against the persons	240	475	320 1/5	612 1/5	79 1/5	137 1/5	..	..
Offences against property with violence ..	22	270	30 3/5	379 4/5	8 3/5	109 4/5	..	..
Offences against without violence	1,875	2,150	1,938	2,597	63	447	..	..
Malicious offences against property ..	40	91	28 3/5	77 1/5	..	..	14 1/5	13 1/5
Forgery and offences against currency ..	2	2	3 3/5	5 3/5	1 3/5	3 3/5	..	..
Miscellaneous offences	601	1,105	836	1,269 4/5	235	164 4/5	..	..

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

Crime	1862		Average of five previous years		Decrease		Increase	
	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Offences against the persons	341	993	336	443	..	..	4	549
Offences against the property with violence ..	21	108	28	410	7	302	..	..
Offences against the property without violence	1,511	1,748	2,076	2,588	565	40	..	..
Malicious offences against property ..	13	26	18	50	5	24	..	..
Forgery and offences against currency ..	5	5	3	4	..	..	1	..
Miscellaneous offences	796	1,357	567	1,285	..	..	228	71

(Source Volume no. 457.
Population 10,85,515.
Area 3,426 sq. miles.)

APPENDIX III—*contd*

Crime	1863		1862		Increase		Decrease	
	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
I. Offences against the State ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
II. Offences relating to Army	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
III. Offences against public tranquility including the groups numbered 42, 43, 44 in the Schedule attached to the Circular order of the Nizt. Adt. no. 19, dated 31st December 1861.	10	73	20	294	..	..	10	221
IV. Offences by or relating to public servant including groups 51 and 52 of the Schedule.	4	4	8	23	..	..	4	19
V. Contempts of the lawful authority of the Public servants.	35	72	62	94	..	..	27	22
VI. False evidence and offences against public justice including groups 36 and 49 of the Schedule.	64	87	130	169	..	..	66	82
VII. Offences relating to Coin and Government stamps and including groups 15 and 16 of the Schedule.	4	4	1	1	3	3	..	..
VIII. Offences relating to weights and measure.	6	11	3	5	3	6	..	..
IX. Offences affecting the public health safety, convenience, decency and morals including groups 64 to 67 of the Schedule.	23	33	97	177	..	..	74	144

APPENDIX III—contd.

Crime	1863		1862		Increase		Decrease	
	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
X. Offences relating to religion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XI. Offences affecting the human body including groups 1 to 3, 17, 20 to 26, 29, 30 to 35 and 45 to 47 of the Schedule.	255	450	250	594	5	..	..	138
XII. Offences against property including groups 4 to 10, 13, 14, 27, 28, 37 to 41, 48, 53 and 54 of the Schedule.	1,896	2,243	1,545	1,882	351	361	..	..
XIII. Offences relating to documents and to trade or property marks including groups 18, 19 and 56 to 59 of the Schedule.	1	1	4	4	..	..	3	3
XIV. Criminal breach of contract of service ..	1	1	5	10	.	..	4	9
XV. Offences relating to marriage ..	9	13	8	15	1	..	..	2
XVI. Defamation	6	9	4	9	2	..	..	..
XVII. Criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance including groups 68 and 69 of the Schedule.	27	34	46	63	..	..	19	29
XVIII. Miscellaneous offences including an uncertain number of groups.	170	283	504	897	..	..	334	614

(Source Volume no. 457.
Population 10,83,910.
Area 3,426 sq. miles.).

APPENDIX III—*concld.*

Crime	1864		Average of last two years		Increase		Decrease	
	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
III. Offences against public tranquility	7	54	15	182	..	..	8	128
IV. Offences by or relating to public servants	..	..	6	8	..	..	6	9
V. Contempts of the lawful authority of public servants.	33	61	48	81	..	..	15	20
VI. False evidence and offences against public justice.	40	48	96	127	..	..	56	79
VII. Offences relating to coin and Government stamps, etc.	2	3	2	2	..	1	..	..
VIII. Offences relating to weights and measures	5	15	4	8	1	7	..	..
IX. Offences affecting the public health/ safety, conveniences, decency and morals.	7	8	60	105	..	..	53	97
XI. Offences affecting the human body ..	266	423	251	522	15	..	..	99
XII. Offences against property	1,999	2,869	1,713	2,059	286	810	..	..
XIII. Offences relating to documents and to trade and property marks.	4	7	2	2	2	5	..	..
XIV. Criminal breach of contract of service ..	..	..	3	5	..	..	3	5
XV. Offences relating to marriage	15	20	8	14	7	6	..	..
XVI. Defamation	4	5	5	9	..	..	1	4
XVII. Criminal intimidation, insult or annoyance	15	19	36	48	..	..	21	29
XVIII. Miscellaneous Offences	295	410	324	571	..	..	29	161

(Source Volume no. 457.
Population 12,39,666.
Area 4,121 Sq. miles).

APPENDIX IV.

Extract from the book Government of Bengal, Public Works Department. List of Ancient Monuments in the Bhagalpur Division, revised and corrected up to 31st August 1895. Published by Authority, Calcutta. Printed at the Bengal Secretariat Press, 1896.

BHAGALPUR DISTRICT

No.	Locality	Name of monument	History or tradition regarding the monument
1	Sultanganj ..	Monasteries ..	There are extensive remains of Buddhist monasteries just close to and north of the railway station, whence some years ago, a number of figures were exhumed, among them, a fine inscribed statue in bronze of colossal size.
2	Ditto ..	Stupa ..	This is a fine old stupa attached to the monasteries on the east side. It is well worthy of permanent and thorough repair and preservation. It was covered with fine plaster panels and figures.
3	Ditto ..	Mosque ..	This is a masjid built on an old Hindu site, on the rocky promontory of Baiskaran. It is in the Bengal Pathan style.
4	Jungira, Sultanganj.	Temple of Jahnu Muni.	The temple of Jahnu Muni is on the highest point of a rocky island in the Ganges. There are two other below. These are not in good condition, the one at the middle height being half fallen. Jehangira is a famous place of pilgrimage. There are some Buddhistic figures, and bas-relief of eight Bhairavas are in the uppermost temple.
5	Jungira ..	Rock sculptures	These sculptures are carved on the boulders of the rocky island and the promontory. They consist of Narayana reclining on Vasuki serpent Ganga, Vishnu, Surya, Gaurishankar, Buddha, and Tirthankar and others. These are carved in series and in niches of different forms. They deserve careful preservation.
6	Khanjarpur ..	Mosque of Rahman Ali.	This mosque was built by Rahman Ali.
7	Bhagalpur	Mausoleum of Ibrahim Hussein Khan.	This is a very pretty monument, built about 200 years ago by one Ibrahim Hussein Khan. It was repaired in 1845 by the Magistrate of Bhagalpur.
8	Bhagalpur, Mahalla Kabarpur.	Jain temples ..	One of these is a fine large temple, about 200 years old.
9	Bhagalpur, Muhallas Mulnachuck and Khalifabagh.	Mosques ..	These are about 200 and 150 years old, respectively.
10	Barari near Babupur.	Ditto ..	One of these was built by Mir Ashrut Ali.

APPENDIX IV—*contd.*

No.	Locality	Name of monument	History or tradition regarding the monument
11	Barari near .. Bhagalpur	Caves ..	There are two caves near Barari, which are noticed in the Journal of the Asiatic Society. They have yielded coins, but have not yet been fully explored. There are small buildings near their mouths. They deserve conservation. They are on the river bank. The eastern cave, which faces the west, is a rather square chamber, domed and having a central column. The western cave, which faces north, is an extensive group of subterranean chambers penetrating the earth a very long way, on both sides of the semi-circular verandah, which has a column to support the half dome. Both of them had gates built up which are now fallen and so rain water penetrates and damages the caves.
12	Patharghata ..	Rock sculpture	On the banks of the river. The rock sculptures are very old, dating prior to the 7th or 8th century A.D. They are known as *chaurasi muni* (84 saints), and represent scenes from the life of Krishna and others. These relics are cut on the northern (or river side) face of the hill.
13	Patharghata ..	Batesvar cave	There are five caves on the northern face of the hill. The Batesvar cave has a small shrine with a verandah, on the two sides of which are two niches. Here are some old images, and here Babu P.C. Mukherji discovered several relics in bronze and silver, which he secured for the Indian Museum. Of these, a lotus of extraordinary workmanship shows delicate figures on the eight three fold petals, and in the centre and below. Another is a four-faced and twelve-armed Bhairava standing on two prostrate figures. On the east of the Batesvar temple, and below the *chaurasi muni*, are two caves, of which the eastern one is fallen and shows minute carvings in the existing portions of the roof, which was divided into compartments. On the west of Bateswar are one cell (now gone) and a large cave in three compartments.
14	Patharghata ..	Statue of Varahi Temple.	There are several statues of Surya, Varahi, Gauri-Shankar at Batesvar temple, and a fine figure of Ganga (river Ganges deified) on the site of the Bhagvati temple. There is also an old temple in ruins just on the rocky promontory; it is overgrown by a venerable tree. Behind it is a platform, on which is collected a number of statues, Buddhistic and Brahmanical. At Anti Chak are extensive ruins, where relics are discovered every year. The images at the Batesvar temple and the hill house at Kahalgaon and Ghoga were taken from

APPENDIX—IV—*contd.*

No.	Locality	Name of monument	History or tradition regarding the monument
			here. Raja Gurh Mardan was traditionally believed to be the king of this place, which was his capital, having fifty-two streets and fifty-three bazars. Dharar, a very big mound in the centre of a square brick fort was his palace. It is situated about a mile south of Patharghata, and is worth excavation.
15	Pirpainti ..	Tomb ..	No record of date, but it is evidently old and probably dates from the reign of Aurangzeb.
16	Ditto ..	Tomb of Pir Syud Shah Kamal.	A Nat Raja used to live a religious life here, whom Pir Syud Shah Kamal killed. The mosque, grave and madrasa of the Pir are close by.
17	Karangarh ..	Fort ruins ..	This is undoubtedly a very ancient fort, and stands on the site of old Champanagar. Several bastions and the ditch on the west can be made out, and Mr. Boglar strongly recommends a careful examination and conservation of what is one of the historical and famous pre-Buddhist forts in Bengal. On the west of the fort are Jaina and Mahadeva temples, both containing old sculptures.
18	Kherhi hill ..	Fort ruins ..	There are here remains of brick houses, and several small tanks, attributed to Sasangka Raja, the last chief of the Kshetauries. The eastern ascent to the hill fort is a road, paved with flags, which were steep, form a kind of stair. Some flags show short inscriptions in *shell* character. On the top, the road divides into two branches, one going south to the second stage of the hill, and the other runs north, leading to a brick chamber, now destroyed : in which the Raja used to enjoy fresh air On the left is a very large well, about 16 feet in diameter, and lined with large bricks. On the second stage of the hill is the ruin of the Raja's palace, on the north of which was a temple : the linga still exists. This small citadel consists of two parts On the eastern slope of it are several carved stones that probably belonged to the Mahadeva temple. On the third summit, over looking the lower and southern end of the ridge, was a small brick chamber called the Queen's apartment with one door towards the north-east and no window.
19	Bangaon and Karma.	Sikargarh ..	These buildings are said to have been built by Shah Suja, a brother of the emperor Aurangzeb, about 260 years ago. There is nothing left, but the site of the Bangaon Sikargarh, which is cultivated. The other is a pucca building like a mosque.

APPENDIX—IV—*concld.*

No.	Locality	Name of monument	History or tradition regarding the monument
20	Jethur Hill ..	Temple ..	There is a temple here enshrining sculptures of interest and kept up by attendant Pujari Brahmans.
21	Pipra ..	Ditto ..	Temple kept up by the Zamindar of Pipra. The temple is of interest.
22	Pipra Nath ..	Ditto ..	Temple kept up by Rajas and Brahmans. The temple is of interest.
23	Colgong ..	Tomb of Hazi Karma.	Is a darga of one Hazi Karman : since his death his wife, Rahimi, looks after it and takes offerings, etc.
24	Colgong ..	Temple ..	The only rock temple in Bengal. It is cut out of a rock in the river Several fine specimens of sculpture were collected by Mr. Barnes and placed in his house on the hill to the north of the Railway Station. Some have disappeared, but several still exist. The property has now passed into the hands of a native zamindar, and the sculptures are being neglected. The owner may be induced to let Government have them, when some of them should be placed in the Indian museum.
25	Colgong ..	Tomb of Shah Kewbari Saheb	This is the darga of Shah Kewbari Saheb.
26	Amarpur ..	Fort ruins ..	This appears to have been a large fort enclosing a citadel. Nothing exists now except a few tanks and mounds marking the lines of the walls and of the temple.
27	Near Amarpur	Tombs ..	There are here 40 tombs and a temple.
28	Bamsi (within Banka Sub-division).	Temple ..	This temple was built in 1720 A.D.
29	Mandar Hill (two or three miles from Bamsi).	Jain temple ..	This is a Jain temple, built of stone and mortar. It is evidently of no antiquity; its date is not known.
30	Ditto ..	Temples ..	The Mandar *mahatmya*, a portion of the *Skanda Purana*, describes sacred places here. The oldest buildings are said to have been erected by Raja Chhutra Sen, of the Chol tribe, who lived before the time of the Muhammadans. There are two temples on the top of the hill, a stair leading up to them ; there are two inscriptions and some rude carving on the rock. Besides these remains on the hills, ruins attributed to the Chol Rajas, are scattered about its foot for about two miles in extent.
		Papaharini and Akasa Ganga tanks.	The Papaharini tank is so called from a female goddess carved on a rock. The *Akasa ganga* is a rock-cut pool on the hill.

Glossary

A

Aghani .. Crops in month of *Agrahayan* corresponding to December, generally refers to paddy harvested in winter.

Ahars .. An *ahar* is an artificial catchment basin formed by blocking the drainage of the surface rain-water. Also refers to a small drainage taken out of a rivulet, and then blocking up the water at a low level.

Akhara .. A gymnasium or centre where people collect for physical exercises.

Amin .. A revenue employee who measures land and plots thereon a map, also collects revenue data.

Amla .. An employee of the *zamindar* for rent collection.

Anchal .. Unit of revenue administration below subdivisional level and above the *halka* level. An *Anchal* has about ten to twelve *halkas* and each *halka* comprises ten to twelve villages

Anchal Adhikari Incharge of an *Anchal* to the rank of a Sub-Deputy Collector or Deputy Collector.

Anathalaya .. Orphanage.

Anupsthan .. A Hindu place of worship.

Arwari .. A particular species of mullet.

Asal jama .. Original crown rent.

Asal jama tumari ... Original crown rent of the forty estates during early British period.

Ayurved .. Indigenous school of medicine.

Azan .. A prayer call at the mosque.

B

Bakast .. Land other than the proprietor's private land known as *Khamar*, *Zirat, Sir, Nij* which is in the cultivating possession of a proprietor or a tenure holder.

Banjar .. Waste or uncultivated land.

Barsingha .. A species of deer with branched horn.

Bhadai .. Autumn rice.

Bhaga .. A tax, i.e., 1/6 part of the total produce during Hindu period.

Bhasha .. Language.

Bhaulidars .. Cultivators paying rent in kind or who cultivate the lands of landlords or tenure holders enjoying certain rights.

Bhojpuri .. A colloquial dialect spoken in the districts of Shahabad, Saran, etc.

Bishkopra .. A kind of poisonous reptile like lizard.

Bundhs .. Low mud embankments.

Burkandazes .. Originally subordinate policemen; employees of zamindars or wealthy persons.

C

Chachar .. Land that has been left fallow.

Chadar .. A cloth sheet by which a tomb is covered; bedsheet.

Chak .. A small revenue unit.

Choudhuries .. Employees to procure carriages, bullocks, etc., for military movement; an important person in a village.

Chula .. Hearth.

D

Dains .. Witches.

Dais .. Midwives; maid-servants.

Dam .. One-fortieth of a rupee.

Danpatra .. A deed of gift.

Darns .. Channels taken out from a rivulet or stream.

Dawk .. Mail.

Devasthan .. A Hindu place of worship.

Dhaba .. A courtyard.

Dharmada .. A kind of tax taken while purchases of grains are made; this money is meant for being spent on charity.

Dhar .. Channels or water courses.

Dharmshalas .. Rest houses for travellers.

Dholai .. Porter's charges.

Dih	..	Homestead land.
Diwan	..	Incharge of revenue matters in different provinces during the Mughals.

E

Ekka	..	A light one-pony drawn carriage offering a flat seat for 4 or more passengers besides the driver to sit. This was the usual conveyance in the towns and in the rural areas but this type of conveyance is fast declining in the urban areas. Previously the horses used to be given flashy trappings and trinkets and there used to be Ekka-races, a favourite pastime. In *Satuani* festival time this race is still held.

F

Faujdar	..	A military official; originally the man in charge of a military unit (*fouj*).
Faujdari and *Dewani Adalats*.		Criminal and civil courts.
Firman	..	A Government order usually with seal of authority.

G

Gaddis	..	A business magnet's place of transaction.
Gairmazrua	..	Land not covered under a plough.
Ghats	..	Mountain passes.
Ghatwals	..	Special *chaukidars* under the *zamindars* or rulers who used to give protection to the travellers at the mountain passes or river crossings; and escort them safe through the zones. They were also charged with the realisation of rents and taxes from the *raiyats*. They had to watch the incursions of the hill tribes. The Ghatwals usually got rent-free *ghatwali* lands in lieu of their services.
Ghora Gari	..	Hackeries two or four wheeled carried by one or two horses.

Gola .. Grocery centre.

Goshala .. Cowshed; a kind of tax taken while purchases of grains are made; this money is meant for being spent on cowsheds.

Gram cutchary .. Village courts.

Gram Sewak .. A Government employee under the Block Development Officer who has various revenue and development duties in the village.

Gufas .. Caves.

H

Halka .. Lowest revenue unit, consisting of about ten or more villages.

Hartals .. Strikes.

Hath chitta .. Manuscript.

Hathia .. Rains in spring and winter which are very helpful to the crops.

Hats .. Village markets.

Hukka .. Hubble-bubble.

Hundis .. Before the establishment of Banks, merchants used to issue hand-written documents authorising payments which held good at other establishments.

I

Ijafa .. An increase on average rent of all sorts of lands of a thana.

Imam .. One who leads the prayer at mosques.

Inam .. Gifts of villages free from taxation and were not to be entered into by policemen and soldiers during Pala period.

J

Jagir .. Grant of land free of revenue or the assignment of revenue lands for the maintenance of some particular person or establishment.

Jama .. A term used for revenue deposits.

Jamadars .. Minor staff in the municipal or police services.

Jangurus .. The Santhal priests who are supposed to have the power to combat the black magic of the witch.

Jhandahs .. Flags.

Jheel .. Lake.

Jote lands .. Cultivated lands.

Jyotish .. Astrology.

K

Kabil lagan .. Unassessed but capable of bearing rent plots.

Kamat .. Land under personal cultivation of the landlord.

Kankar .. Lateritic soil.

Kanungo .. A minor Government official in revenue administration.

Karamcharis .. Non-Government servants charged with the duties of rent collection, maintenance of registers of accounts, etc.

Kewal .. Alluvial soil.

Khalihan .. Threshing floor.

Khana Shumari .. List of inhabitants.

Kharif .. Autumn crops.

Khas .. Lands under personal cultivation.

Khaslands .. Lands under personal cultivation.

Khasmahal .. A section in the Collectorate that used to look after areas under personal management of the State. Since abolition of *zamindari* the section has merged in Land Reforms Section.

Kirana .. Grocery.

L

Laundis .. Female servants.

M

Mahajans .. Money-lenders.

Mahal .. A unit in an estate.

Mahant .. Abbot.

Mandir .. Temple.

Mandi	..	Market place for grocery or vegetables.
Mantra	..	Hymns.
Masjid	..	Mosque.
Melas	..	Fairs.
Mudra	..	Posture.
Mukhia	..	Elected executive head of a *Gram Panchayat*.
Munshi	..	Subordinate revenue employee, a scribe.
Muquaddam	..	Village headman.
Mustajiri leases	..	The non-permanent tenures granted for a short-term years.

N

Naib	..	Deputy Governor during the Mughals.
Naib Diwan	..	Deputy Governor and incharge of revenue matters.
Nankar	..	Land which was not assessed with any rent.
Nufurs	..	Male servants.

O

Osouni	..	Winnowing

P

Palkis	..	Palanquins.
Pan	..	Betel.
Panches	..	Members of a *Gram Panchayat*.
Panwala	..	Betel seller.
Parauti	..	Land left fallow for a time that may be sufficient to recover its fertility.
Pardah system	..	Observance of veil.
Parganas	..	Fiscal units consisting of a number of villages.
Parwanas	..	Written orders.
Polaj	..	Lands continuously cultivated and never allowed to lie fallow.
Pujaris	..	Hindu priests.
Puja	..	Prayer, worship.
Pustakalaya	..	Library.

R

Rabi .. Spring crops like wheat, gram, linseed, etc.

Rahat .. A type of implement in use for the supply of water from the wells carried by a pair of oxen.

Rais .. An aristocrat.

Raiyat .. Tenant.

S

Sahukar .. Village money-lender.

Salami .. Certain amount of fees or money during commutation by private agreement.

Sangharama .. *Vihara* or Buddhist monastery.

Sardars .. Employees to procure carriages, bullocks, etc., for military movement.

Sarpanch .. Elected judicial head of a *Gram Panchyat*.

Shikar .. Hunting.

Sipahsalar .. A Governor of a province during Muslim period.

Sthans .. Hindu sacred places for worship.

Stupa .. A mound.

Subah .. Province.

Supari .. Betel nut.

T

Tahrir .. Illegal gratification or *Abwab*.

Talab .. Tank.

Tanr .. Uncultivated wasteland.

Tappas .. A fiscal unit smaller than *parganas*.

Tehsildar .. A rent collector.

Terai .. Valley.

Thakurbari .. Abode of God.

Thug .. A cheat, organised bands of men who used to decoy passers-by and loot them.

Tilak .. A mark put on the forehead.

Tolas .. Smaller than *mohallas* usually in villages.

Tussar .. A kind of pure silk.

Index

INDEX

A

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE.

A note on Invalid Establishment at Bhaugulpore (reference page 54—History text).

J. Talboys Wheeler in his Handbook to the Madras Records at paragraph 37 of page 13 mentions:—

> "Revenue Department, Sundries, 15—Sanatorium at Bhaugulpore, 1773 to 1793—this volume contains the consultations, not of the Madras Government but of the Governor-General in Council, relative to certain healthy spots selected by the Collector of Bhaugulpore, for the use of invalid Native Officer and Sepoys. It contains a large number of observations and suggestions in the shape of letters, minutes and regulations, on a variety of details connected with the subject."

It is peculiar that Bhagalpur records should find a place in the Madras Record Room. An unsuccessful attempt was made to trace the records in Patna or in Calcutta.

A reference was made to the Madras Record Office and it was found that Revenue Department, Sundries 15 was "wanting" there but the Curator informed that there were references to Bhagalpur in other volumes of the Revenue Sundries series. An investigation was made by the Editor by a personal visit to the Madras Record Office. With the time available as the District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur was at the last stage of printing only three volumes could be traced which contain information about Bhagalpur. They are Revenue Sundries series. Vol. nos. 9-A, 11-B, and 16. There are ample references to the Invalid Settlement at Bhagalpur in Sundries, Vol. no. 16. The documents make out a remarkable feature of the district in late eighteenth century and offer a subject for research particularly as to what happened to the land grants and the families. Apparently, the privileges were later extended to the European Invalids largely and this may account particularly for the large number of Europeans that the district (including Saharsa district then a part of Bhagalpur) had even in the interior till the beginning of the 20th century.

A summary of the detailed contents is given below:—

1. Proceedings of the Governor-General in Council in the Revenue Department of the 14th June, 1782 indicate that the Collector of Bhagalpur was directed to select some healthy spots within the districts for the use of Invalid Native Officers and Sepoys. It was stipulated that the Soobadar, Jamedar, Havildar, Naik and Sepoy will get 200, 100, 60, 50, 40 Begahas of land respectively. These lands were not to be resumed on the death of the invalids but should continue in their family at a

moderate fixed rent. The Collector was directed further to continue the pay of the invalids three years after they are given in possession of the land when it will be reduced to 1/3rd, in two years more another one third and another third to be paid for later.

2. The Minutes of Council dated 3rd June, 1783 made some changes and assigned 300 Begahas to Commandants and Risaldars, 200 Begahas to First Jamadar, 100 Begahas to Second Jamadar and so on. Troopers were given 40 Begahas.

3. Proceedings of the Governor-General in Council dated 9th May, 1788 made a very important document giving a picture of the study of the Native Invalid Establishment and it indicated checks for the payment of the men and Regulations for the European invalids. It suggested that henceforth no European N.C.O. Officer shall be transferred to the invalid establishment and they were to be divided into 4 independent companies, one of artilery and another of infantry. There will be an Assistant Surgeon and an European Adjutant.

Bhagalpur invalids were to be called for muster twice a year. Apparently a lot of abuses had already come in. It was ordered that no invalids shall in future be transferred to the Bhagalpore. Establishment and the Commanding Officer shall look into the problems. The invalids fit for duty were to report to the Commanding Officer.

Many other restrictions were also imposed as to who should qualify for the privileges of being declared an invalid to get the stipulated advantages. It was ordered that no commissioned or non-commissioned Native Officer who had not served in that rank for at least three years should get that privilege. No native invalid was to receive any *Batta*. Of those who were not found fit for the assistant duty and to form a company at Monghyr will be transferred to Baghulpore Establishment.

4. A letter from Hutchinson to the Deputy General, dated 8th September, 1792, with a copy to the Collector of Bihar and Bhagalpore on the subject of the report in the Tannah Regulations runs from pages 27 to 45 of Revenue Sundries 1782—93, Vol. 16 of the Madras Record Office.

The document gives various suggestions to remodel the Bhagalpore Institution and to extend it to Bihar. By this time various problems had cropped up like the invalids in possession of such lands having died without

any heir or a widow of an invalid marrying again and got children from the second husband or the zamindar seizing the crops or the Jagheer of the invalid.

After making various suggestions Captain Hutchinson suggests that there will be a Regulating Officer and a Subaltern to help the Regulating Officer. Various suggestions of procedure and details for working the section were made. Mr. Grant, a Zamindar of Bhagalpur, had made certain proposals and Hutchinson supported them.

5. Letter from the Collector of Baghulpore to Cornwallis dated 20th September, 1792 acknowledging Captain Hutchinson's letter and giving his suggestions on the subject, runs from pages 53 to 108 of the same volume.

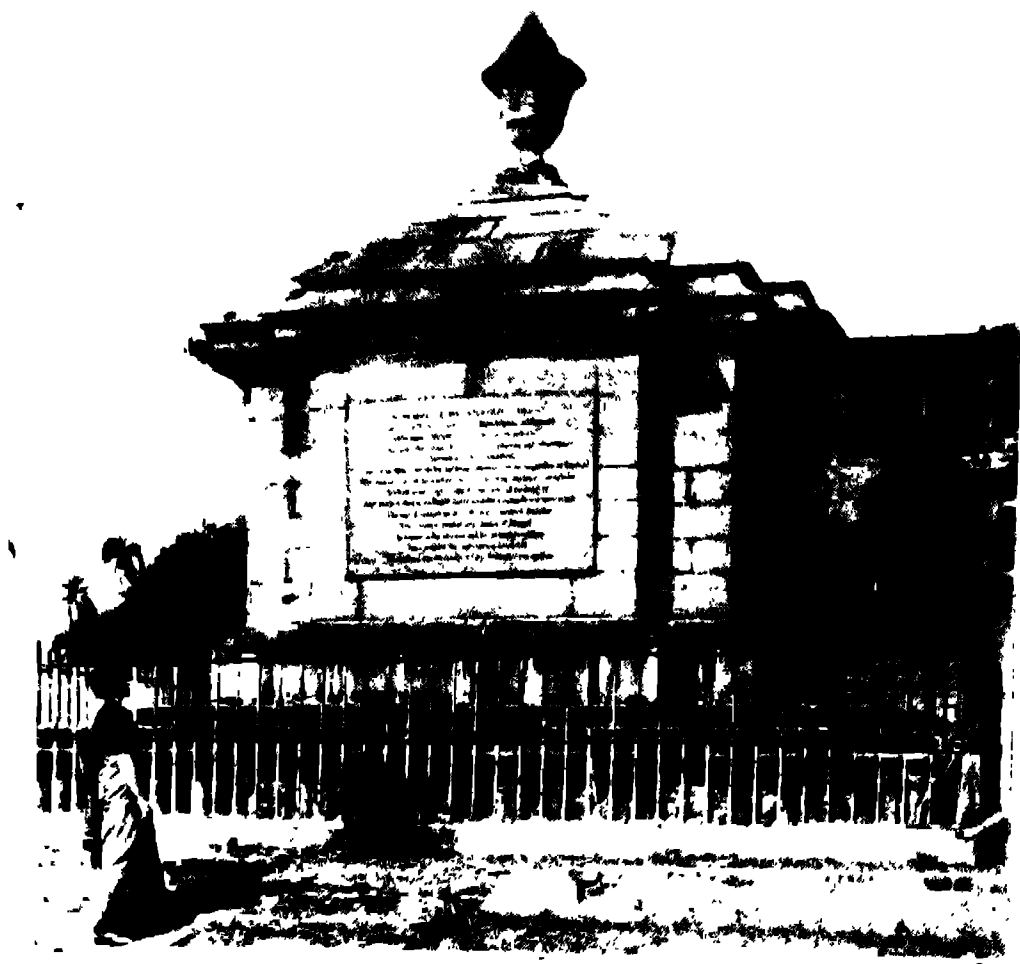
6. Letter from the Collector of Bihar to Cornwallis, dated 31st October 1790, submitting his observations runs from pages 108—135.

The matter had received a treatment from the Commnder-in-Chief whose minute for the future regulations of the jagheerdar establishment runs from pages 135 to 235.

The resolution of the Governor-General in Council adopting the proposals submitted by the Commander-in-Chief and repeating that Tannh Regulations from pages 212 to 213 of the volume.

BSP (Rev.) 33—M.G.—2,000—4-12-1962—AK and others.

No. 1

Situated at Khanjarpore in Bhagalpur City this was built in the 17th century A.D. It is a square building roofed by five neat domes. The style is simple and graceful and the execution proportionate

No. 2

Augustus Cleveland, Collector of the district of Bhagalpur and Raj Mahal (1779—83) had done great work in conciliating the hill tribes of his district. He died on the 13th January 1784 In honour of his memory the Governor-General in Council ordered a public monument. This was erected in 1788 in front of the house of Cleveland known as *Tilha Kothi*. The marble tablet was brought from Lucknow.

No. 2

Details will be found in the text on 'Places of Interest'.

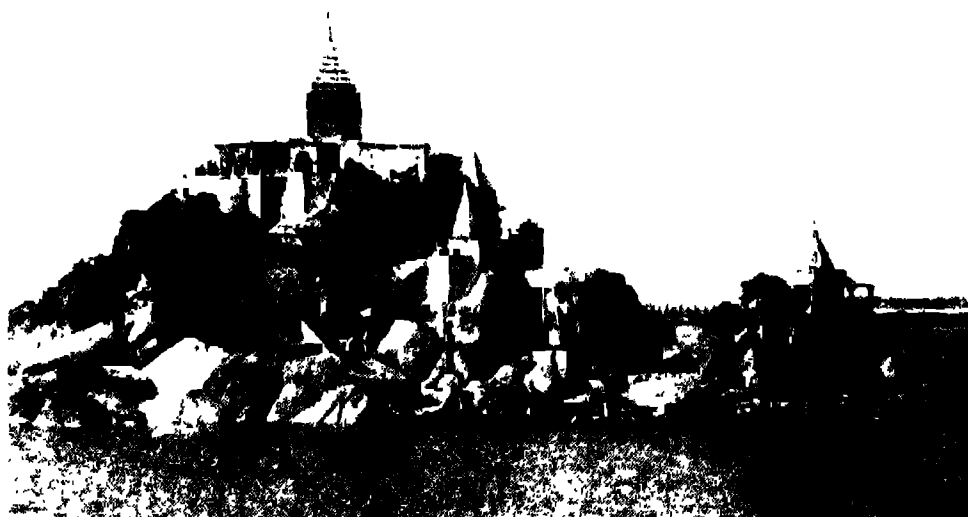
No. 4

An image of about 15th century A.D. discovered in Amarpur by one of the ancestors of Barari estate. It is now kept in a temple in the compound of Keshav Mohan Thakur

No 5

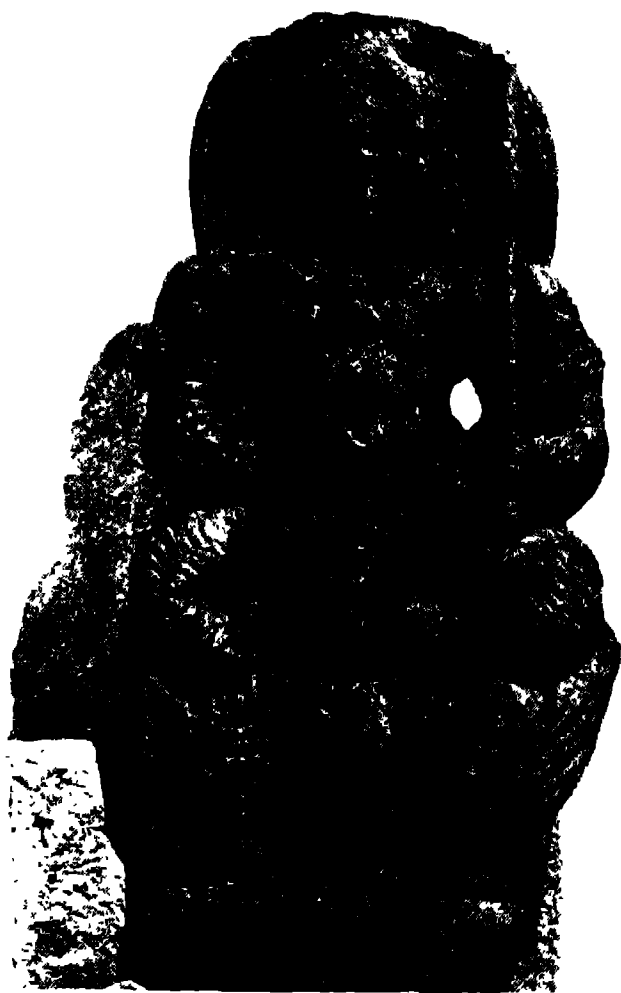
It is situated on the highest peak of the Mandar Hill. The dome is bulbous and conical and built of stone and mortar.

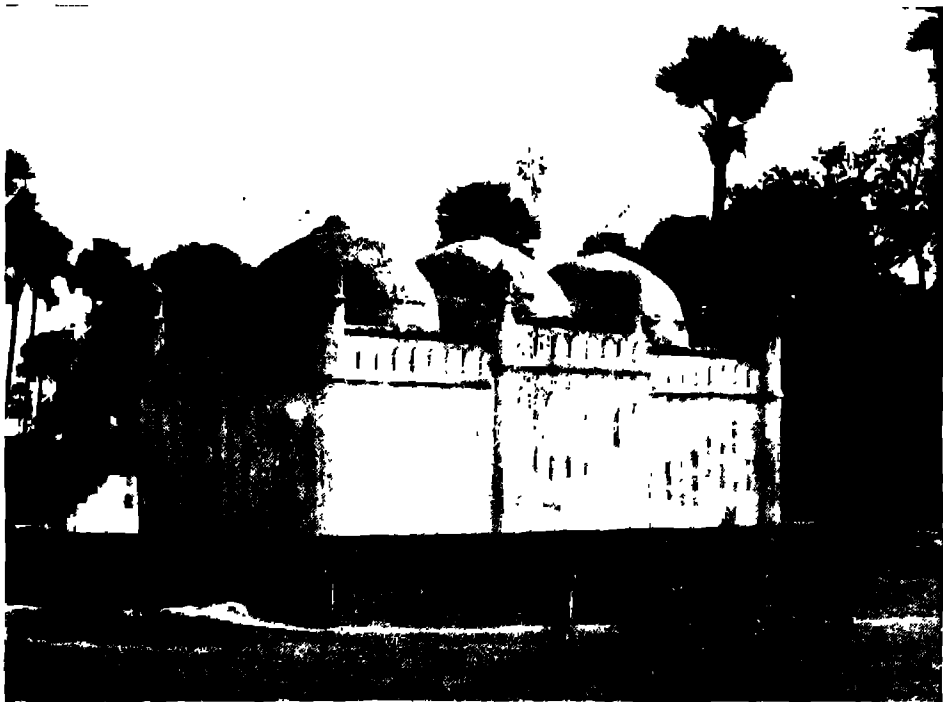
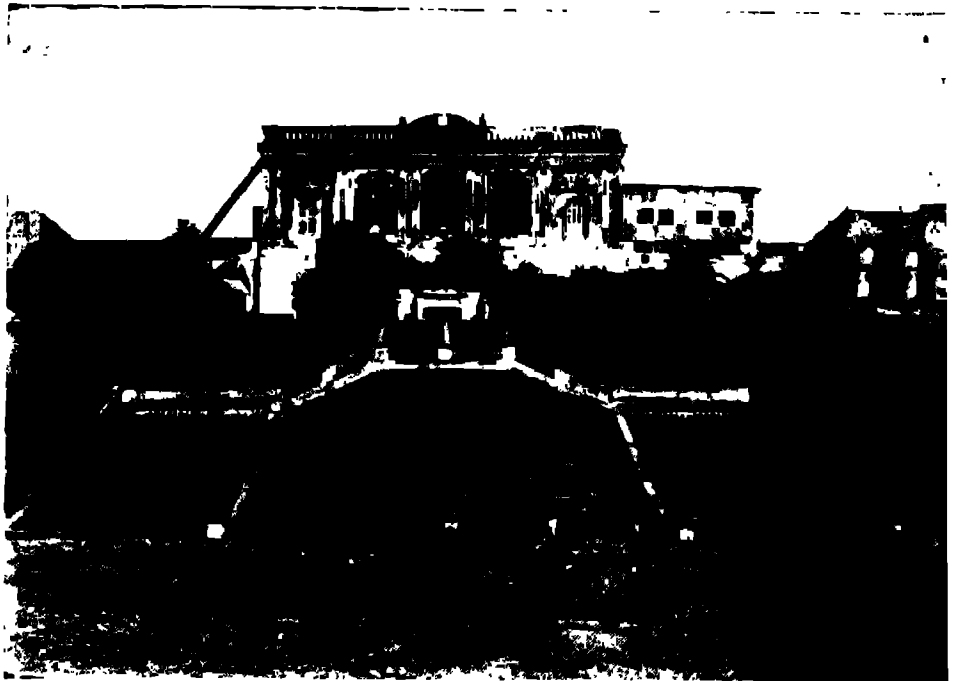
No. 9

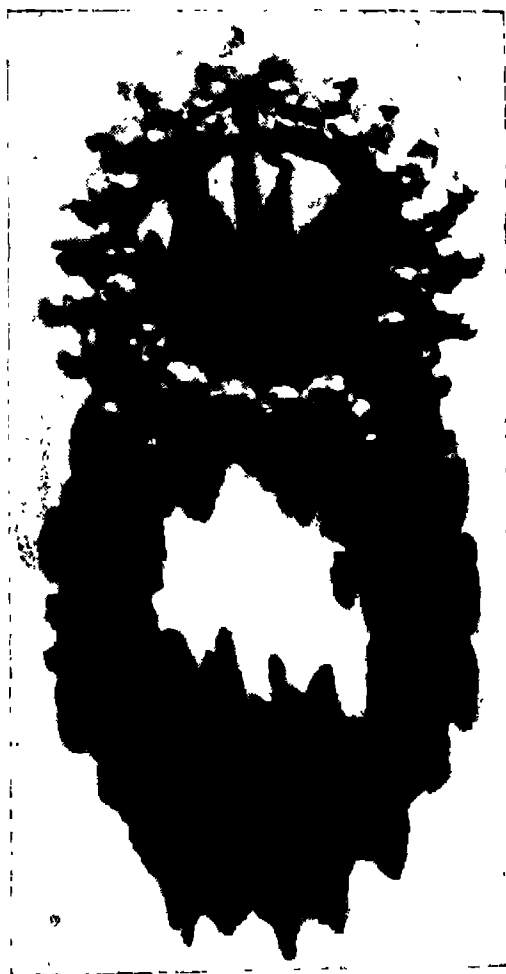
It is a unique image of Vishnu, probably the only sculpture in Bihar where Vishnu in man-lion incarnation has not been shown as tearing Hirana Kashyapa. The image is 34" of black stone and belongs to Gupta period. It was discovered in 1928-29 while a mound being dug.

No 7

This temple, which has undergone additions and alterations during the last century, contains a much-worshipped *[illegible]*. There are unique specimens of rock sculpture and some ancient inscriptions. The temple is located in the bed of Ganga river. Attracts thousands of visitors.

No. 8

This image was recovered from the neighbourhood of the *Tilha Kothi* at Bhagalpur. Worshipped as *Batuk Bhairava* in one of the temples of Champanagar. The image appears Buddhistic.

No. 9

It is a stone Image recovered from the well on the top of Shahkund Hill near Bhagalpur. It belongs to 11th-12th century A.D The images found there, are fine specimens of the Mediaeval School of Eastern Art in its last phase.

No. 11

Mr. Augustus Cleveland, Collector of the district of Bhagalpur and Rajmahal (1778—1783) received a grant of 281 *Bighas* and 7 *Kathas* of land from the Governor-General in Council in 1782. He built this house also known as *Tilha-Kothi*.

No. 12
One gold ear-ring wt.51 grains (Patna Museum)
(Arch. N... 11073).

No. 15

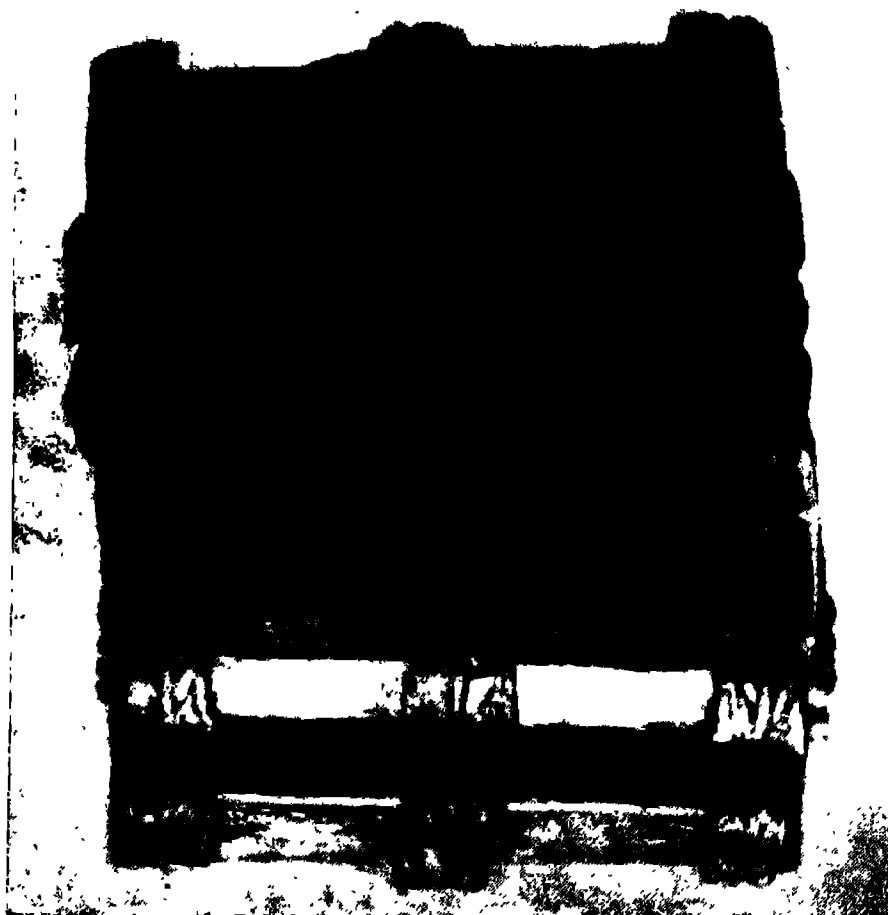
This is delicately executed mosque in the 17th century A.D. About two and half miles from Bhagalpur town.

No 14

Two pieces of gold chain. Wt.155 grains. (Patna Museum)(Arch. No. 11070.)

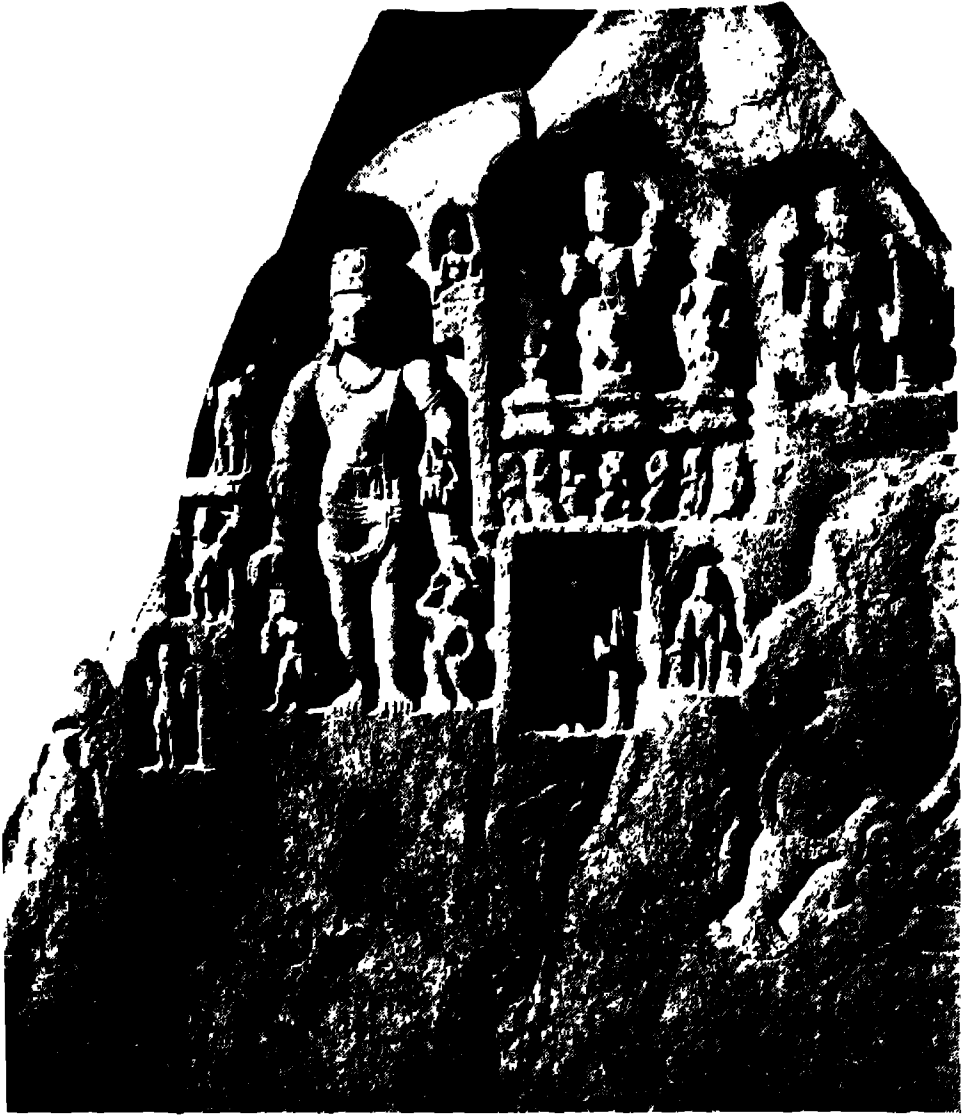
No. 15

One gold nose ornament with ornamental design. Wt. 173 grains. (Patna Museum.) ; Arch. No. 11067.)

No 16

One gold ornamental '*dholna*' with central pole (neck ornament). Wt. 76 grains.
(Patna Museum.) (Arch. No. 11069.)

No. 17

A gold standing female Figure with right hand on her waist in repose. Size 2 8″×1,″ Wt. 92 grains. (Patna Museum.) (Arch. No. 11071.)

No. 18
Details will be found in the text on 'Places of Interest'.

No 19

This panel of rock sculpture along with many other specimens at Ajgaibinath temple of Sultanganj attracts many visitors.

No. 20

We need not enter into the different views regarding the significance of the Sakti deity. The Sakti can be conceived to be the personification of the universal energy in the abstract. Ther are various types of Mahishasuramardini figures in different manifestations of the Image In this sculpture the Sakti deity has been shown dismounted from her mount. The Demon, likewise has variations. Here his demonic self is emerging from the slashed head of the buffalo.

The sculpture portrays the combat of the Devi with the buffalo headed Demon. It depict the Devi in her protecting aspect as upholding the universe from the evil. The sculture i important from many angles. Firstly, it has not received the iconoclasm of the Muslims Secondly, it is an inscribed image. The inscription reads "Siddin Rudekena Deva Dharmoy. Gayadhara Sutana Karita". The language is corrupt sanskrit and mentions that the image i made by Rudeka who was the son of Gayadara. The script is written in the characters of 9th-10th century A.D. This makes the image more than thousand years old, and therefore, i is one of the oldest Sakti image in Bihar.

Thirdly, the image has also iconographic interest having four hands and fighting with the Asura dismounted. It was recovered from village Douna not very far from Shahkund police station of Sadar subdivision by one of the ancestors of the old Thakur family of Barari estate. The image at present is installed in a temple inside the compound of the house of Keshav Mohan Thakur one of the ex-landlords of Barari estate.